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THE TIMES



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MONDAY JULY 27 1998

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Blair to sack ten ministers in major reshuffle

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR will today appoint Peter Mandelson, his close friend and confidant, to the Cabinet and challenge him to show that he can be a mainstream politician by running a leading Whitehall department.

The Minister without Portfolio will finally emerge from the shadows after lengthy spells in Opposition and government as backroom strategist, media adviser and spin-doctor.

Between eight and ten ministers at all levels of the Government will be sacked today to make way for new blood in Mr Blair's first reshuffle since his election victory last year.

Two or three Cabinet ministers will go. Mr Mandelson will replace one of them and *The Times* learnt last night that John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, is set for a significant promotion, possibly even into the Cabinet.

Other leading modernisers considered for promotion are Stephen Byers, the Education Minister, and Tessa Jowell and Alan Milburn, both Health Ministers. Helen Liddell, the Treasury economic secretary, will also move upwards, although not into the Cabinet.

The shake-up will be marked by the elevation of Jack Cunningham, a veteran of the last Labour government in the 1970s, to the post of

Cabinet "enforcer", charged with driving Mr Blair's will and agenda across Whitehall. Mo Mowlam is to stay on as the Northern Ireland Secretary at least until next year.

The Prime Minister spent yesterday at Chequers with four close advisers planning today's changes. He consulted John Prescott, his deputy, on the telephone. Neither Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, nor Mr Mandelson were present.

Mr Mandelson, who has been closely involved in virtually every key decision made by Mr Blair since he became Labour leader in 1994, and on his way up the Shadow Cabinet ladder, has been excluded from all reshuffle discussions because he is a key component of it. Last night he was telling friends that he had no idea what job he would be doing.

Mr Mandelson appeared to be in line for one of three posts: Secretary of State for Media, Culture and Sport, the job now held by Chris Smith; Dr Cunningham's job at the agriculture department; or Margaret Beckett's job as President of the Board of Trade, a job that he would relish but which might put him in conflict with Mr Brown, with whom he has had uncomfortable relations.

Mr Mandelson was once the clear favourite to take on the strengthened Cabinet Office role that Mr Blair has decided to give to Dr Cunningham. However, Mr Blair was urged both by Mr Mandelson, who wanted his own department, and Mr Brown not to put him in a post that would have increased the risk of a clash between the Treasury and Downing Street.

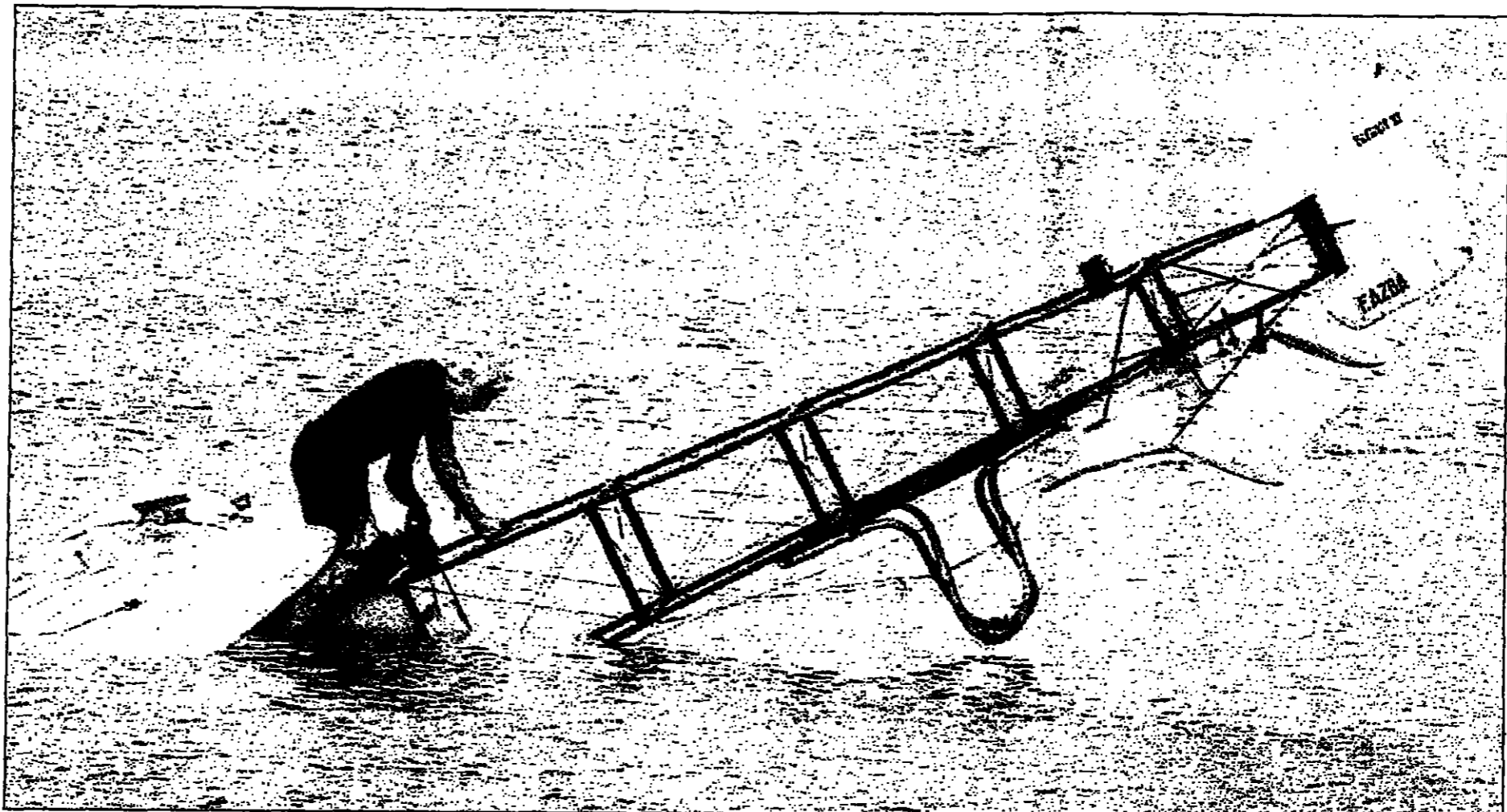
Mr Blair seems certain to sack Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, and David Clark, currently head of the Cabinet Office, also seems on his way out, unless Mr Blair pulls a surprise by sending him to agriculture. Harriet Harman appeared likely to be moved from her position as Social Security Secretary but she may retain her seat in the Cabinet by taking overall responsibility for women's and equality issues.

Alistair Darling, the Treasury Chief Secretary, remained favourite to take over at social security. And in spite of regular calls from the Tories and the media for his dismissal, Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, looked set to stay at the Treasury.

All the senior Cabinet figures — Mr Brown, Mr Prescott, Robin Cook, and Jack Straw — will stay in their present jobs.

The great survivor, page 2

Blériot Mark 2's Channel bid ends in the drink



Louis Blériot, grandson of the French aviator who in 1909 was the first man to fly across the Channel, emerges from his rickety biplane yesterday after his attempt to reenact the historic flight ended with a forced landing in a lake near Calais.

M Blériot, 54, a banker who took up flying just ten years ago, set off at dawn from Calais airport in one of three surviving Blériot monoplanes, but after flying barely a minute had to abandon his hope of repeating his grandfather's feat and landing

on the white cliffs of Dover (Ben Macintyre writes). He found that as soon as he started to turn, the plane did not respond normally. "I can't explain it," he said. "I didn't even get to the coast and out over the Channel. It's really very disappointing."

He had planned to make a film of the 30-mile trip for the 90th anniversary next year. Experts, who fished the aircraft out of the lake an hour and a half after the crash, said while some historic parts had been lost for

good, the plane could be repaired. The original Louis Blériot crossed the Channel after Lord Northcliffe, proprietor of the *Daily Mail*, offered a prize of £1,000.

History takes a dive, page 14

Clinton fights to avoid jury

President Clinton is determined not to testify in person in front of a grand jury, as the White House struggles to find the least damaging way to respond to a subpoena from Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor.

White House lawyers are racing to thrash out a deal with Mr Starr which would save Mr Clinton from the humiliation of being the first incumbent President to give evidence before a federal grand jury in a criminal investigation. Page 12

BT deal to send shares soaring

Shares in British Telecom are likely to soar today, adding as much as £3 billion to value of the company, after it revealed details of a major joint venture with AT&T of the US.

The two companies are setting up a company, to be chaired by Sir Ian Vallance, chairman of BT, which will offer a range of communications services to multinational corporations. Page 48

Big payers may be shamed

Gordon Brown is preparing to "name and shame" companies which have poor productivity records but agree to large pay rises for their workers.

The Chancellor, who is growing increasingly concerned about excessive boardroom pay, is considering plans to publish league tables highlighting the names of the worst offenders. Page 2

Cook to shake-up Foreign Office after arms affair

By Michael Evans, Defence Editor

THE official report into the arms-for-Africa affair, which will be published today, will be strongly critical of the breakdown in communications between diplomats and ministers in the Foreign Office which led to a sale of weapons to Sierra Leone in breach of a United Nations embargo.

To meet the criticisms expected from Sir Thomas Legg, QC, former Permanent Secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, Robin Cook has drawn up a "modernisation" programme for the Foreign Office aimed at improving links between desk officers and ministers and reducing

what he calls the "hierarchy of management".

Mr Cook received his copy of the Legg report at the weekend but, Foreign Office sources said, he had examined the same documents and telegrams that had been handed over to Sir Thomas, and was able to make his own assessment before the former mandarin had delivered his judgement. This was why he was able to say in an interview at the weekend that he planned to tighten up procedures that had failed in the arms-to-Africa affair. Foreign Office officials were anxious to emphasise that Mr Cook was



Cook: plans to improve Foreign Office links

not prejudging or pre-empting the report.

The "scandal" broke in May when it emerged that the London-based security consultant company, Sandline International, had sold arms for the overthrow of the illegal military regime in Sierra Leone earlier this year, after discussing the issue with officials

Continued on page 2, col 6

'Tiny' Rowland lost will to live

By Michael Horsnell

ROLAND "Tiny" Rowland, the business tycoon and former owner of *The Observer* who died at the weekend, had been in a coma for more than a week at the London Clinic and "gave up the will to live".

A family friend said that although the former Lorrho chief, once condemned by Edward Heath as "the unacceptable face of capitalism", had been suffering from skin cancer, that was not the cause of death. "He gave up the will to live," she said. "It was pretty much his own decision to die."

Mr Rowland, 80, who conducted a 14-year feud with former business associate Mohamed Al Fayed over the control of Harrods, was on holiday on his yacht *Hanse* in

the Mediterranean with his wife Josie and four children when he was taken ill and flown to London.

Mr Rowland retired from the business world in 1995 after losing control of Lorrho at the end of a power-struggle with Dieter Bock.

Last night Mr Al Fayed said: "Tiny Rowland and I were business rivals for many years but I take no joy in his death. I am sending my condolences to his family."

Donald Trefford, former editor of *The Observer*, said: "He built up a company over three decades on a Cecil Rhodes-like vision about Africa."

Obituary, page 23

England cash in on a testing time for umpires

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

A DAY of dramatic, uncompromising cricket at Trent Bridge has left England on the brink of squaring the Test series with South Africa through an improbable victory but done nothing to soothe the troubled relationship between players and umpires.

England, playing their most committed and disciplined cricket of a disappointing summer, ended the fourth day on 108 for one, pursuing a target of 247.

However, two critical decisions went against South Africa: first when Jonny Rhodes was ruled caught on a ball that brushed his pad and then when Michael

Atherton, the former England captain, was reprieved as he appeared to glove a ball from Allan Donald to the wicketkeeper.

Rhodes' dismissal could also be considered an example of players influencing a decision, a tactic the international umpires condemned as "cheating" after a recent conference. He was given out after an appeal led by the England captain and wicketkeeper, Alec Stewart, who was arguably in the best position to see he had not hit the ball.

England's players and management have seethed all summer about the volume of controversial decisions that have gone against them and they will doubtless believe that yesterday's epi-

sodes only began to balance the books.

They may also point out that Nasser Hussain, plunging blindly forward at cover to try to catch the South African captain, Hansie Cronje, indicated he was unsure if the ball had carried.

David Lloyd, the England coach, said afterwards: "It would be unfair to isolate any one decision, because there have been a number of incidents. There will always be passages of play at this level when there is a lot of appealing but, as players, you have to accept decisions and get on with the game." Bob Woolmer, the English-born coach of South Africa, said: "It's tough out there for the umpires."

Test action, pages 25, 29



"Don't bother — you've been given out already"

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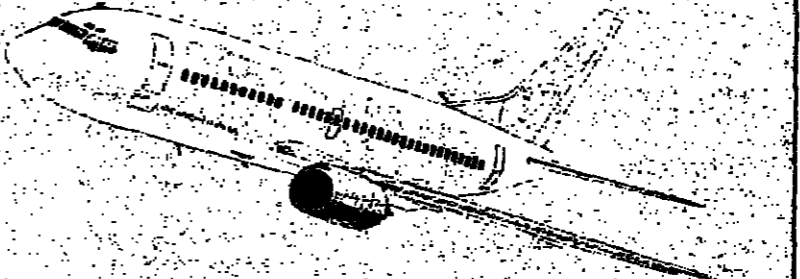


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Straw pledges fast but fair asylum system

Richard Ford on White Paper strategy for cutting backlog of 73,000 cases

JACK STRAW yesterday promised to "get tougher" with asylum-seekers and clamp down on marriages of convenience in his wide-ranging reform of the immigration system.

A White Paper published today will reveal his strategy for a "faster, firmer and fairer" system to ease the backlog of 73,000 cases. The measures will include new powers for immigration officers to enter property and for registrars to uncover bogus marriages, as well as the launch of a Home Office unit to tackle unscrupulous immigration advisers.

The Home Secretary dismissed suggestions that he would order an amnesty for people already in the UK, to clear the backlog of unresolved cases. It is expected, however, that up to 10,000 whose applications were lodged before 1993 and who are still awaiting an initial decision will eventually be able to stay in the country.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Backlog of 73,000 applications and appeals	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forged travel documents	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unscrupulous immigration advisers and lawyers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bogus marriages	
<input type="checkbox"/> Detention for immigrants	
<input type="checkbox"/> Right of appeal for visitors refused entry for marriages and funerals	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash payments to applicants deprived of social security benefits	
<input type="checkbox"/> New powers for immigration officers to forcibly enter property	

"We are going to get tougher. In the last ten years we have seen a ten-fold increase in the number of people claiming asylum," Mr Straw said yesterday.

"As a constituency MP, I am seeing a great growth of people abusing the asylum system simply to evade immigration control or because they are economic migrants to this country. We are going to be faster, firmer and fairer." The White Paper proposes

giving immigration officers the power to forcibly enter property, search inhabitants and gather evidence. They currently have powers of arrest but must be accompanied by police if they wish to make a forcible entry.

Mr Straw wants registrars to have statutory powers to demand documentary proof of identity and nationality. He believes that this would help to cut marriages organised to evade immigration law. The

package of measures to be announced this afternoon will include a Home Office unit that will be hunted down unscrupulous immigration advisers who offer bad advice on the likelihood of succeeding with an asylum claim or help immigrants to make up stories about persecution.

The number of overseas liaison officers, who work with airlines abroad, will be increased from five to 20. They help to spot travellers with forged documents boarding planes to the UK. In 1997 the number of people found with inadequate documents rose 17 per cent to 13,000.

There are 50,000 asylum-seekers awaiting a decision on their application and 23,000 awaiting an appeal. Mr Straw said on BBC's *Breakfast With Frost* yesterday: "There is not going to be an amnesty, let me make that clear. Anyone now in the country who has had a decision made against them or is awaiting removal or deportation is not going to be



The White Paper aims to reduce the wait for asylum-seekers, including those held at immigration centres

allowed to stay." But he said that the UK would continue to be a refuge for people genuinely fleeing persecution. "If their case is properly established and they cannot go back because they really seriously worry about persecution, they will be able to stay here."

Other changes include a right of appeal to visitors refused entry to the UK. This follows complaints that many relatives of UK residents, particularly from the Indian sub-continent, have been refused entry to attend family weddings and funerals.

Foreign domestic staff are to be given the right to leave their employers if they are ill-treated. They would have to have specialised domestic skills, rather than general household skills, and would have to prove to the police or health authorities that they had been abused before seeking similar employment.

Law Report, page 41

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How to make the Internet mobile in ten minutes...

Being on-line is as important a part of day-to-day communications as having access to a telephone or fax machine. A mobile phone is now accepted as a standard tool for business, anyone who travels without one is seen as being in the Dark Ages. You take one and stay in touch. There is no reason why you should not be similarly enlightened with mobile data. Access to your e-mail, office network and fax wherever you can use your mobile phone.

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traveller accessing data, you may have found it less straightforward than it should be. You need all the right connectors. To plug a computer into a standard telephone socket means that you need the right lead. Different countries have a bizarre and incompatible range of

phone can also be substantially cheaper than paying hotel rates.

Why is the SH888 the best phone for mobile data?

To transfer data, PCs require a modem. Before the Ericsson SH888, a portable PC

modem is as simple as connecting to the Internet and follows much the same pattern - so again, you must have an e-mail account with a service provider either privately or through your office. Switch on your PC and phone, line up the infra-red ports and to send or receive e-mail, dial into your office or service provider. Then click on the e-mail or the in-box icons. You need only be on-line to transmit and receive e-mails, so you can read and write them at your leisure without tying up your phone line, keeping your costs down as well as your line free for other business.

So how do I use the SH888 to connect to the Internet?

Connecting to the Internet with the SH888 is extremely simple, but it must be noted that you cannot just buy the hardware, switch it on and expect to browse the web. Firstly you have to subscribe to an Internet service provider, either privately or through your company and then each time follow these simple steps. Activate your PC or PDA's infra-red port, select "Activate IR port" on the SH888's menu. Place the phone next to the computer, ensuring the infra-red ports are facing each other. Then either log into your office network or dial into your Internet service provider. Click onto your Internet icon and enter your desired address. For faster downloading you can opt to turn the images off.

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The SH888's already superior sound design supportsEFR (Enhanced Full Rate speech coding) providing speech and reception quality you'd expect from a land line phone. Sleek, black and futuristic with a three line display, it looks as good as it sounds. On its own it's impressive. With a computer it's amazing. The Ericsson SH888.

And how do I use the SH888 for e-mail? Sending and receiving



The new SH888.

wherever you are. The mobile phone freed you from having to stay in the office for an important call, mobile data will free you from being tied to your office PC. You can make sure that you are as well informed as your customers and suppliers by logging on from anywhere in the world and reading the information. Ericsson's new SH888 makes accessing the Internet on the move a practical proposition.

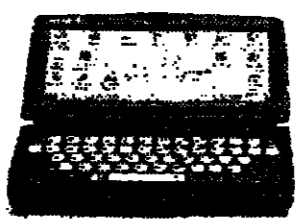
Have you ever tried to use a computer and modem in a hotel room and given up?

If you are a frequent

sockets. With the SH888 you don't need to worry about sockets and cables because it has an in-built PC card and communicates with your computer directly by infra-red using the same technology as a TV remote control. For international calls a mobile

modem was contained in a PC card, which slotted inside your computer. The in-built PC card and infra-red technology in the SH888 has a number of benefits, besides removing the need to carry the extra kit and the fact that it's cheaper to buy the SH888 than a mobile phone with separate cable and card. Traditionally PC cards rapidly drain a computer's battery, especially PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants) which use normal Alkaline bat-

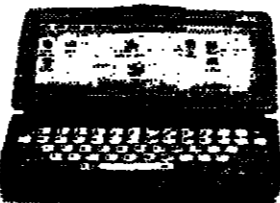
...or 10 seconds.



All you need to do to use the SH888 for Mobile Data. Configure your PC or PDA to use its infra-red port.



Select "Activate IR port" on the SH888 menu.



Put the phone next to the computer with the infra-red ports facing each other and log on using your standard PC software.

Make yourself heard.

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Brazil wants rare macaws seized in British raids

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

BRAZIL is demanding the return of three of the world's rarest birds, which are being held at a secret location in northern England.

The Lear's macaws were seized in raids by Customs and Excise investigators on houses in Northallerton and Driffield, in Yorkshire, four months ago.

In an attempt to save them from extinction, Brazilian authorities are attempting to track down and repatriate all rare native parrots smuggled out of the country and sold to private collectors and pet dealers. The campaign reflects efforts by wildlife-rich developing nations to get back the rare and endangered animals and plants that have been taken from the wild over recent years.

The Lear's macaws in Britain were found after an investigation into an international network of bird dealers that covered Belgium, Germany, the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Britain. Three men were arrested in the raids and released on police bail while the haul is being evaluated.

Crawford Allan, global enforcement assistance co-ordinator with Traffic, a Cambridge-based organisation that monitors the worldwide trade in rare and endangered species, said yesterday that the decision to hold the three macaws at a secret location underscored their rarity and the constant threat of theft.

Between 60 and 130 wild Lear's macaws (*Anodorhynchus leari*) remain at their cliff-edge home in Raso da Catarina, Bahia. They enjoy the highest ranking under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species, which bans all trade in them.

Duncan McNiven, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, which has been involved in the investigations, said yesterday: "They are rarer than a tiger or a giant

panda. They are about as rare as a bird can be."

The macaws are threatened by habitat destruction and clearing of land by farmers for cattle, which eat their favourite food, licuri palm nuts. Increasingly, poaching and smuggling have become a problem since their home was found in 1978. The Brazilian Government estimates that at least 20 Lear's macaws have been smuggled out of the country over the past 20 years.

Authorities in Singapore recently confiscated two of the birds from a private collector. Two more were seized at an airport in France along with illegal documents. One died but the other was returned to Brazil where staff at Sao Paulo zoo are seeing if it can be put back in the wild or used for captive breeding. The Brazilian Government wants Britain and Singapore to follow the example set by France. However, the authorities here are concerned for the birds during a stressful flight home.



Lear's macaw, top of the endangered species list

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Art college head demolishes the brick wall school

THE head of one of Britain's leading art colleges yesterday attacked "the Turner Prize syndrome", dismissing brick walls and bottled body fluids as the emperor's new clothes.

Leonard McComb, keeper of the Royal Academy Schools, said he was unable to understand how people could marvel at a drawing by Michelangelo with the same enthusiasm they showed for "piano bits hanging from wires, as if they are both the same thing".

Mr McComb said he was disturbed by the "art careerists" who promoted "cutting edge" art simply because they demanded sensation. "Their priorities are the quick cash sale and the power they accumulate from total and complete majority control. Moreover, many of these careerists deliberately set out to destroy tradition and the spiritual in art."

He despaired at the stranglehold exerted by conceptualists — who expected their audiences to read ideas into

Royal Academy tutor condemns commercialism of 'Turner Prize syndrome', writes

Dalya Alberge

found objects — over artists who painted and sculpted modern works inspired by the Old Masters. The only consolation, Mr McComb suggested, was that the Turner Prize syndrome was a passing phase.

He criticised those who promoted "the idea that anything and everything is art. I don't mind whether something is abstract or figurative, painting or sculpture, providing the artist is a poet and moves people. This is no more than the emperor's clothes. I just think it's not to do with

art. It's to do with the ad man's world. That's what they do."

Mr McComb, born in Glasgow in 1930, steps down as keeper this year to devote time to his own work. No one could accuse him of being a traditionalist for the sake of it. He is a modern artist whose work is represented in collections held by the Tate Gallery and the Arts Council.

His painting and draughtsmanship — imposing figure studies and landscapes invigorated by the classical tradition — are admired by leading contemporary artists such as R.B. Kitaj. He speaks of supporting "new things", including some conceptual work, singling out Kenneth Martin, whose abstracts use the chance selection of numbers to determine the placement of lines on a grid.

The brick wall, featuring some 20,000 of them, was commissioned by the Tate from Per Kirkeby, a Danish artist, and was constructed by a team of bricklayers. While some visitors thought it was just a high brick wall, critics applauded how "the clarity of the structure sings out".

Among numerous artists who find new uses for bodily fluids are Andres Serrano, who is avidly collected by Charles Saatchi. Curators and critics have read deep significance into Serrano's work, which has included photographing every conceivable bodily fluid.

He achieved notoriety when he was attacked by religious leaders over his image of a crucifix immersed in a jar of his own urine. He claimed that *Piss Christ* was inspired by Renaissance imagery. *Art in America* magazine said in 1990 that he produced objects



Leonard McComb, pictured with three of his recent works, was disparaging about "art careerists" who set out to destroy the spiritual in art

of great and seductive beauty that addressed some of the weightiest subjects.

Mr McComb's comments did not go down well with Cathy de Monchaux, who has been shortlisted for this year's Turner Prize "for the growing complexity and richness" of her sculptures — folded and stuffed suede, wall-mounted on metal frames, to hint at parts of the body. She said: "I

could say something that wasn't printable."

She described his criticism as "a reactionary, middle-aged male response to change", and added: "I'm just as happy to look at something old as something new. One's also trying to make work for one's time, not for a past time. It would be pointless to make art like Michelangelo. It wouldn't mean anything to anybody."

Contemporary artists are like social barometers. The work has to reflect the time we are in." Asked whether any Old Masters had inspired her, she said: "Nothing particular."

Condemning the general superficiality of conceptual art, Mr McComb said that the "mystery in all beautiful works is not something that's intended": a Michelangelo, a Rembrandt or a Constable "re-

energised" at every visit.


Lamenting that Turner Prize syndrome artists appeared largely uninterested in the Old Masters and in learning the rules before breaking them, he recalled that, when one of the greatest modern masters, Francis Bacon, was shown a work by a student at the Royal College of Art, he walked him to the Victoria & Albert Museum next door.

There he pointed to a Turner and told him: "If you want to learn to paint, copy that." "He walked away and left him there," Mr McComb said, adding that artists could never stop learning from the masters.

De Monchaux, 37, said she had never copied any of the Old Masters. "I'm not sure that copying is a way to learn what people have done."



Objects of Mr McComb's scorn: works such as those by Damien Hirst, above, and Gillian Wearing

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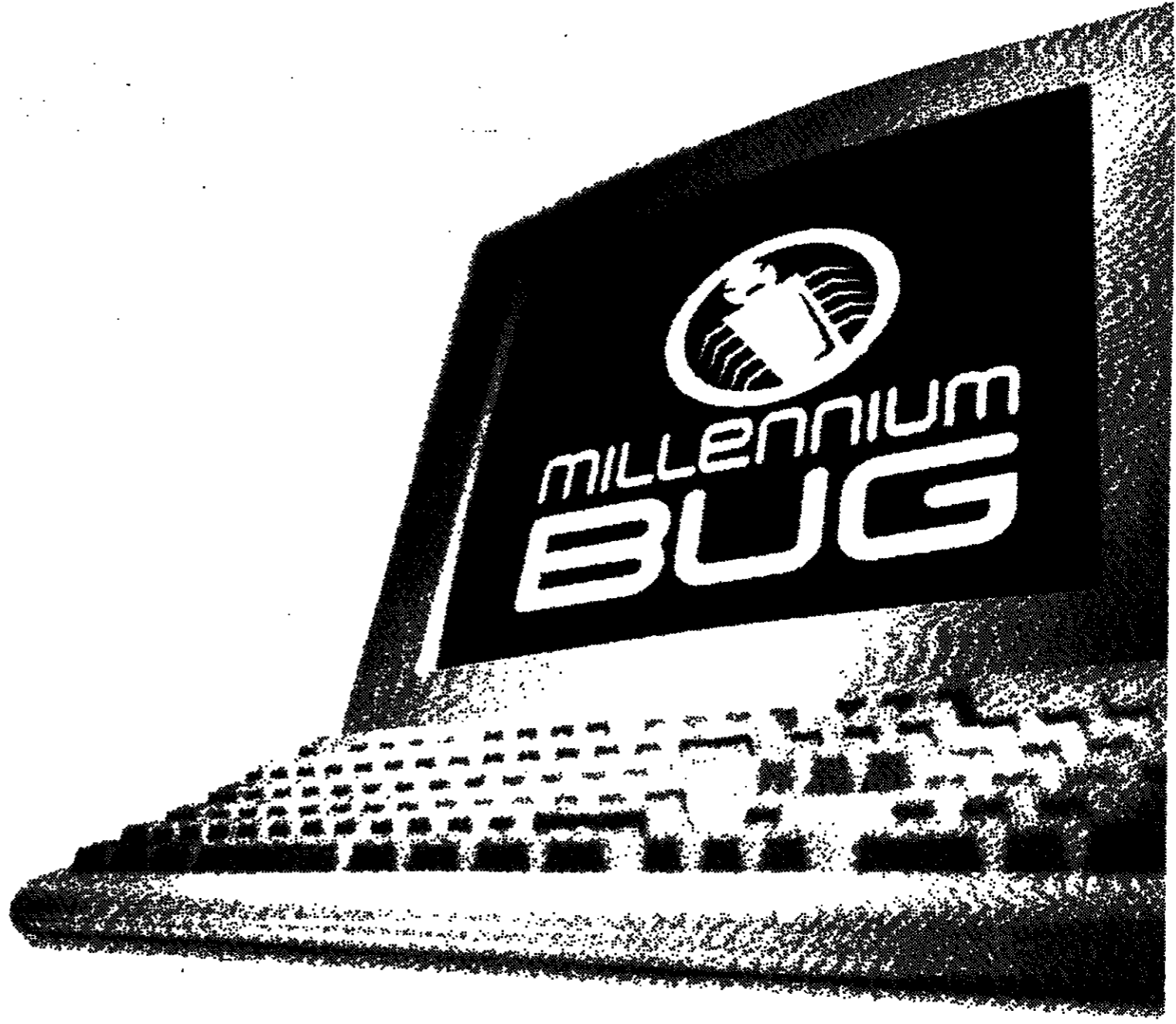
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MPs want ban on Orangemen joining RUC

Unionists upset by proposal, writes Audrey Magee

ORANGEMEN may be banned from joining the RUC if the Government accepts the recommendations of a Northern Ireland Affairs Committee report to be published in Belfast today.

The report on the composition, recruitment and training of the RUC will also apply to exclusively Roman Catholic organisations such as the Ancient Order of Hibernia. According to the BBC, the Commons select committee's report also recommends that the Union flag should not be flown over RUC stations on July 12, the biggest day in the Protestant marching calendar.

The committee, which includes four Northern Ireland MPs and is chaired by Peter Brooke, the Conservative former Northern Ireland Secretary, carried out a detailed inquiry into the RUC. Its proposals, aimed at creating an impartial police force, are certain to anger Orangemen. Jeffrey Donaldson, a member of the Orange Order and one of two Ulster Unionist Party members of the committee, said he believed it was potentially discriminatory. He voted against the proposal.

He told the BBC: "What you're saying is that, if someone is a member of the loyal

orders or Ancient Order of Hibernians, they are not eligible to join the RUC. Now in Northern Ireland that would exclude a lot of people."

Gregory Campbell, the Democratic Unionist Party security spokesman and a member of the Independent Orange Order, said the proposal would increase tensions in Northern Ireland. He added that Orangemen in the RUC were different from Freemasons in Britain.

"The rationale for those cases in Great Britain is that membership of those organisations may well bestow

favouritism. Up to now there has never been any allegation that that has been the case in Northern Ireland."

Of the 13,000 members of the RUC, 93 per cent are from non-Roman Catholic backgrounds. The force is coming under increasing national and international pressure to alter its make-up and become more attractive to potential Catholic recruits.

Chris Patten, the former Governor of Hong Kong, is carrying out a review of the force, in compliance with the Good Friday agreement. The brief of his seven-member committee is to design "a police service that can enjoy widespread support from, and is seen as an integral part of, the community as a whole". Its report is expected next summer.

Eddie McGrady, the SDLP member of the select committee, said that the proposed ban on Orange membership went some way to improving the make-up of the police force. "On balance, people will realise it is a reasonable condition of employment," he said.

After release, the committee's report will go to Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, for her consideration.

PARADES TALKS

The leader of the Orange Order has proposed dropping a ban on talks with nationalist residents opposed to their parades. Robert Saulters, the Grand Master of the Orange Order, said it was time to talk to the residents' associations, many of which the institution maintains are a front for Sinn Féin. The proposal will be put to the Grand Lodge, the order's ruling body, on Saturday.



Barefoot on the scree in the chill of early morning, climbers ascend Croagh Patrick in what is, for many, an annual pilgrimage

Barefoot climbers seek peace in mist

Martin Fletcher joins the pilgrims of Croagh Patrick

TONY SPAIN left his home in Dublin as the day was a few minutes old yesterday, drove four hours to Co Mayo, climbed a 2,510ft mountain and attended Mass at the summit in mist and freezing rain. For good measure he made the ascent barefoot. He called this little outing a spiritual "insurance policy". Mr Spain, 39, was not alone

in his endeavour. He was one of at least 20,000 people who joined the annual "Reek Sunday" pilgrimage to the top of Croagh Patrick — a tradition that dates from AD441 when St Patrick is said to have spent 40 days and nights fasting on the mountain. And St Patrick

merely Christianised a pagan festival that began in about 3000BC.

Father John Gavin, one of the 15 priests who conducted the mountain-top Masses every 30 minutes, described the pilgrimage as an annual cleansing of the soul. However, to the non-devout it is distinctly baffling, and while the goal may be entry to Heaven, the route is downright hellish.

Pilgrims from across Ireland started arriving before dawn — young and old, all states of fitness, alone or in families. They came clad in fleeces, jumpers or T-shirts, in woolly hats and baseball caps, clutching rosary beads and bottles of fluorescent pop.

They bought sturdy sticks for £1 apiece from young men selling great piles of the things, then started their two-hour or so climb into the clouds that began as a muddy and gentle incline and ended with a near-vertical face of wet and jagged scree. Mountain

rescue teams stood guard. A fleet of ambulances was on standby at the bottom.

For safety's sake, pilgrims are now discouraged from making the ascent before dawn, but there are still broken bones most years and sometimes fatalities. "Ten to seven in the morning, my good God! My mother would be proud of me," exclaimed one red-faced girl as she staggered up. "Not too far now," a man yelled in encouragement as he slithered down.

The mountain is rich in gold. It is the holiest in Ireland, one of the few countries that goes in for holy mountains. It offers a breathtaking view of Clew Bay with its countless little islands, but none of that was obvious from the summit yesterday because visibility was practically nil.

It was possible to make out groups of pilgrims uttering Hail Marys as they circled the small white chapel 15 times, little huddles drinking tea from flasks and the outlines of

rough stone shelters selling cans of fizzy drink.

The rain lashed down as a priest in a glass cabin said Mass to the assembled throng through loud speakers. But nothing dampened the pilgrims' spirits.

"I feel great," said Mary McGuire, a frail-looking middle-aged factory worker who began making the pilgrimage with her father when she was ten and has now done it 35 times, always barefoot.

"I'm praying for peace in Northern Ireland," said Eamonn Brady, a 60-year-old rural postman from Co Mayo who had just completed his 33rd ascent in a suit and tie. "Penance, penance, penance," said John Moran, a labourer in gumboots, when asked why he did it. Mr Moran, another veteran, had got up at 3am and started walking at 5.30.

Back at the bottom, it was only 9.30am, but Campbell's Bar was packed. The mud-splattered pilgrims were offered free Bibles, and asked to sign petitions against abortion and Third World debt. Lines of trinket stalls sold Croagh Patrick rock, plastic toy cameras and pictures of the Virgin Mary. A palm reader had set up shop in a caravan, and hordes of new arrivals were creating traffic chaos.

For most this was their one day's penance of the year. However, the really hardy could now head north to Co Donegal and an island in the middle of Lough Derg, called St Patrick's Purgatory, where for three days, pilgrims fast, walk barefoot and deprive themselves of sleep.



Many were warmly dressed, others wore T-shirts

Teenager survives 70ft fall down cliff

By Adam Prescott

A TEENAGER who fell 70ft down a jagged cliff face into a river had to cling to the bank for four hours in freezing waters before being rescued.

Robert Milton, 17, was walking along a pathway in woods near the village of Invermoriston alongside Loch Ness with a girlfriend after a party when it collapsed. He fell into the River Moriston and in spite of suffering back and shoulder injuries he managed to swim to the riverbank but was unable to lift himself out of the water.

Friends who had been enjoying an open-air party at Invermoriston campsite called the emergency services at 1.30am on Sunday. Thick bushes and trees below the steep, over-hanging ledge made the rescue treacherous and police, fire, and ambulance personnel were unable to reach him.

Eventually Mike Woodbridge, a doctor, managed to abseil to Robert before members of Dundonnell Mountain Rescue Team arrived to hoist him to safety. Robert, from Fort Augustus, Highland, was taken to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness suffering from hypothermia.

Mr Woodbridge, 30, an experienced climber, said: "It was a tiny piece of riverbank and he couldn't get out of the water. He told me he had bounced a couple of times before ending up in the water. There are so many jagged rocks and boulders, it seems he was really lucky to have hit bushes on the way down."

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Hospital chiefs suspend nurse in deaths inquiry

A HOSPITAL has suspended the male nurse at the centre of an investigation into several suspicious deaths and an alleged indecent assault.

Neil Harvey, 53, is suspected of administering fatal doses of drugs to up to five seriously ill patients and of indecently assaulting a male patient at the Birch Hill Hospital in Rochdale, Lancashire.

It is understood that a team of 12 police has set up an incident room in the hospital and interviewed up to 70 staff. The detectives have also looked at patient records and will call on scientific experts to check drug treatments administered by Mr Harvey.

The hospital is also auditing its dispensary to see which drugs, in what quantities, were given to the patients. They are believed to be concentrating on the supply of painkillers, sedatives and tranquilisers.

The hospital's senior administrator denied yesterday that up to five deaths were considered suspicious. However, Robert Clegg, the chief executive of the Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust, said he was concerned about allegations of "inappropriate use of drugs".

"I am horrified at the reference to five suspicious deaths because I am not aware of any as such," he said.

Mr Harvey refused to discuss the inquiry last night. Speaking at his home in Rochdale, Mr Harvey, who has worked in the health

Police are looking into claims of fatal drug doses at a Lancashire hospital, reports Paul Wilkinson

service for 30 years, said: "I have been told by my employer and the Royal College of Nursing to say nothing publicly."

Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust first formally considered the latest allegations against Mr Hartley more than a week ago, but police were not notified until late last week. Last night police emphasised that the investigation was at an early stage and was not a murder inquiry.

Detective Superintendent Bob Huntbach, who is leading the inquiry, said: "Allegations of improprieties by a nurse have been made. Further details will be released at the conclusion of the inquiry."

A spokesman for the Royal College of Nursing, which represents Mr Harvey, said the suspended nurse was co-operating fully with the investigation. The spokesman said: "Our concern is to make sure that our member gets a fair hearing, but also that we look after the quality of patient

care. If there are any issues over patient care there has to be an investigation.

"He has not been arrested, charged or even questioned, and in fact he has not been told formally what the allegations against him are. He is aware of rumours, but maintains they are without foundation. Given the serious nature of the allegations, it is right that he should be suspended."

The initial investigation began after a male patient aged in his 30s complained in January last year that he had been sexually assaulted by Mr Harvey in the Medical Admissions unit. Mr Harvey was suspended, but later returned to work.

However, the hospital inquiry prompted further complaints from other staff about the nurse's treatment of patients. Early last month he was suspended again and the Greater Manchester Police were called in.



Morris minor: seven-year-old Matthew Culf, with his father, John, shows the strain after getting up early yesterday to join the gathering of Morris men in Exeter before embarking on a procession to the cathedral

Boy dies of meningitis at French camp site

By A CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH boy who died of meningitis in France was named last night as Matthew Scott, aged five. The child, from the Newcastle area, died in hospital in Nantes on Saturday night.

More than 70 youngsters have been vaccinated against the disease at a camp site in northern France where Matthew and his family stayed last week. Yesterday Marie-Therese Ellart, the director of the camp site, Les Ajoncs, at Audresselles, near Boulogne-sur-Mer, said: "He will have brought the disease with him, perhaps from England. It takes several days to show symptoms. The vaccination programme was purely preventive."

The family travelled on from Audresselles to a camp site on the coast of the Loire-Atlantique region. Its identity has not been released.

In Britain, the National Meningitis Trust said the risk to people who had been on holiday in the area was "absolutely minimal".

Patients hype pain for court cases

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MALINGERING patients are costing the health service huge amounts of money, according to a survey by a specialist in medico-legal cases.

Neville Kay, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon from Sheffield, analysed 50 cases. In 84 per cent of them the patients were suing employers over work-related injuries and in a further 14 per cent they were suing over road-accident injuries. In all, 34 per cent were claiming state benefits.

Mr Kay was involved as medical assessor for the defence in 45 cases and for the prosecution in five cases. According to his examination, 42 of the 50 patients were exaggerating their disability. He was able to obtain an assessment by the other side's medical adviser in 27 cases, which

concluded that only two of the patients were exaggerating.

Hospital clinics, which examined all the patients, came to the conclusion that 44 per cent were exaggerating. Mr Kay suggests in the *Journal of the Care of the Injured* that the hospitals, being disinterested in the legal process, were most likely to have an objective assessment.

Covert video evidence was obtained in 20 per cent of the cases and in every one the patient was found to be malingering or grossly exaggerating the symptoms. Costings for the treatment of the patients showed that, in 18 cases, medical expenses were about £100, in 12 cases up to £1,000 and in ten cases over £1,000. No details were available for the other ten patients.

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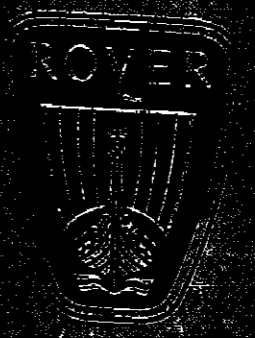
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Richard Ford
 to intelligence

PRISONERS are providing
 police with thousands of bits
 of information about crime
 each year after an overhaul
 of the handling of intelligence
 gathered inside jails.

Every prison now has a full
 time police liaison officer
 whose job is to work
 closely with local police forces.
 The liaison officer is a key
 point within the jail, collating
 information gathered from
 cell wings, overheard on
 cell phones, or discovered in
 correspondence.

The success of the new
 system is shown in 125 jails in
 England and Wales is said to
 have thwarted a number of
 crimes and includes the arrest
 of a bank of drug dealers in
 West Yorkshire after a tip-off
 from prison officers at Worm-
 wood Prison, said in South
 London. In another incident
 police recovered shotgun hid-
 den in a house after an armed
 robber in Preston prison was
 overheard on the telephone
 instructing his wife to get rid
 of the weapons.

Up to 50,000 items of
 intelligence now flow from
 sources within jails including
 information from informants
 recruited by the Prison Service
 and other evidence overheard
 by alert prison officers.

A Prison Service spokesman
 said that the change had been
 made after it had been recog-
 nised that a potential source of
 intelligence about crime was
 being neglected.

He said: "What used to
 happen was that prison intelli-
 gence concerned itself only
 with things going on inside the
 jail. We did not necessarily
 pass on information about
 crime outside it. We concen-
 trated on crime and incidents
 within our establishments."

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New boardroom elite looks to the future with a cold eye on the past

Kafka popped into the office of *The Times* the other day. We, the frayed correspondent of *The Independent* and I, were on a quiet afternoon lamenting the wealth of nations and the poverty of journalism when the telephone rang. "Herr Boyes, have you ever considered moving from journalism into business?" Well, no, but there was something uncanny about the timing of the headhunter's cold call. She was acting for a pharmaceutical company that wanted an Englishman to overhaul its press department.

Having established that the job did not come with a

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

uniform — always a disappointment — I declined and the headhunter moved on to other prey. But the approach was intriguing, a sign

of the new cultural wind in Germany. The lateral insertion of a foreigner into the hierarchy of a traditional German company would have been unthinkable a few years ago. Sluggish growth and an endless string of seminars about the challenges of globalisation have persuaded boards that they have to open up.

Take Jürgen Schrempf, who will present Daimler's half-yearly results next week. He has been storming around world markets (notably with a Chrysler merger), and has been known to lead his executives on mountaineering expeditions to bond in

the Alps. He has been co-operating with a biographer, a militant pacifist, who has repeatedly denounced Daimler as one of Germany's biggest arms exporters. The result has just emerged: a tough, critical book about Herr Schrempf and Daimler. The remarkable thing is that this is regarded not as a public relations disaster, but as a smart move.

The same goes for company policies on their murky wartime histories. Ten years ago no independent researcher would have been allowed to roam in corporate archives, at least

for the period 1933-45. Today it is a boom sector for academics and journalists.

The candour shown by Germany's car companies about their use of slave labour is beginning to translate into financial concessions to the victims. "The breakthrough came with Volkswagen," says Ignatz Bubis, leader of the German Jewish community. "Now German business is being overtaken by its history."

Earlier this month Volkswagen agreed to set up a "private aid fund" for foreign labourers who were forced into service for the company during the war. The Ham-

burg electricity works has decided to pay a "significant sum" to nine former Polish labourers. The Diel arm company is paying around DM1,000 (£336) for every month worked by about 200 slave labourers.

Partly this can be chalked down to a generational turnover in the boardroom — 55-year-old war babies are now calling the shots. But one does not have to dig deep for other possible explanations.

The indefatigable lobbyist Klaus von Münchhausen had already begun pressing the claims of 30 of some 15,000 surviving Volkswagen slaves. Shrewdly noting that

Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democratic challenger to Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, sits on the board of VW, he whipped up a political storm.

Some other company stonewalled but — perhaps nudged by Herr Schröder — it has decided to settle its moral debts. The exact amount will be determined in September — just before the general election. Herr Schröder is ready, it seems, to put the squeeze on companies with blemished histories if he becomes Chancellor. As German corporations position themselves on the US market and are

quoted on the New York Stock Exchange, so they expose themselves to a more penetrating and — thanks especially to Jewish lobbying groups — more organised scrutiny. The Swiss Nazi gold scandals provide a disturbing model. Germany's bosses are bracing themselves for trouble, for consumer boycotts or possible wartime damage claims in American courts. They are thinking afresh. Germany has to be repackaged as surely as Cool Britannia and that will need a special kind of image-maker. But no, thanks for the offer. I do not think I'm quite the person for the job.

Missile watch by Britain and Israel agreed

By Ross Dunn in Jerusalem and Michael Evans, Defence Editor

ISRAEL and Britain have reportedly agreed a security co-operation deal to monitor the proliferation of ballistic missiles in the Middle East.

The agreement was reached during secret talks in London recently which focused on the impact of the arms build-up and coincided with Iran's testing of a medium-range missile.

Israel State Radio reported that Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Defence Minister, had been briefed about the discussions by David Ivry, the leader of the Israeli delegation, but did not give any more details. Mr Ivry carries the title of the Defence Minister's Principal Assistant for Strategic Affairs.

The Foreign Office in London yesterday denied there had been any security agreement signed or discussed with the Israelis last week.

The move came as Iran claimed its test of a medium-range missile had been successful and Washington described the test as a "source of concern".

Iran's state television quoted Rear-Admiral Ali Shamkhani, the Iranian De-

fence Minister, as saying the missile with a range of 800 miles was tested last Wednesday by Iran "without any foreign support".

The missile, apparently based on a North Korean design, is believed to be capable of hitting targets in Israel, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Turkey. Admiral Shamkhani said the missile was for Iran's defence and should not be seen as an aggressive move on the part of Tehran.

Admiral Shamkhani said that Iran's defence policy "has been based on the improvement of its containment capacity". He added that he hoped Iran, "as part of the Islamic

Building boom for settlers

Israel is building more homes for settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, official figures show. In the first four months of the year work began on no fewer than 730 homes for settlers, compared to 310 homes for the same period last year. (AFP)

world, would be able to maintain its role in safeguarding peace in the region."

President Clinton said Iran's possession of such a missile could change the "stability dynamics" of the Middle East if the weapon became operational. US intelligence agencies said they had identified the missile as a Shahab 3. The test contradicts US assessments in 1997 that Iran would need another ten years to develop such a weapon.

Israeli officials said that the missile is "a pipe with an engine, which is far from being the full prototype of the Shahab 3". However, they added that the test was "enough to achieve Iran's goal".

One official said: "Politically and in terms of international consciousness, Iran has joined the long-range missile club."

In its first official reaction, the Israeli Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem issued a statement that called the test a "dangerous development". But some Israeli defence analysts said they believed Iran's motivation was to defend itself against future attacks by Iraq.



A militia officer admonishes a group of sailors who had been boisterous in celebrating Navy Day in the Kolomenskoye park in Moscow

Prince denies Blair drove him out

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Florentine aristocrat whose Tuscan estate has been offered to Tony Blair and his family for a two-week summer holiday, starting on Sat-

urday, confirmed yesterday that he, his wife and children would be moving out of their 50-room Medici villa soon after the Blairs arrive. But Prince Girolamo Strozzi denied "absolutely and categorically" that his family was being "driven out" to make way for the Blairs.

"There is no truth in reports that we are having to quit our home," the Prince told *The Times*. "We are very happy to leave our villa so the Blairs can stay there."

The 1,200-acre Strozzi estate at Cusona, near San Gimignano, is not far from the estate owned by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster-General, where the Blairs have spent their summer holidays for the past two years.

According to the Italian press, the Blairs have chosen the Strozzi estate this year because of "embarrassment" over enquiries into Mr Robinson's financial affairs, including his failure to list his Tuscan estate, Il Mucchio, in his register of interests.

Downing Street insists that the change of holiday venue is simply due to the fact that the Prime Minister will have "more privacy" at Cusona.

"The Prince said it had been 'clear from the very start' that the Strozzi family would greet the Blairs on arrival 'and then leave them to enjoy the summer on our estate'. The two families are expected to have dinner together on Saturday, after which the Strozzi will hand them the keys.

"We never had any intention of staying at the villa while the Blairs were here," Prince Strozzi said.

The Prince is a descendant of the former Grand Dukes of Tuscany and his wife Irina is descended from the Russian imperial family. He said it was "not yet clear" where they and their two daughters, Natalia, 21, and Irina, 16, would be staying. "We will probably stay with some good friends, either close by here in Tuscany or somewhere by the sea," he said.

"We met the Blairs last year when they were staying with Geoffrey Robinson. We subsequently renewed our acquaintance in London." He said there was no question of the Blairs paying rent.

Nurse says she helped 30 to die

Paris: A nurse here has confessed to the "mercy killings" of about 30 elderly and terminally ill people at their request, sparking a police investigation and a renewed debate over euthanasia in France (Ben Macintyre writes).

Christine Malèvre, 28, tried to commit suicide when she found out she was being investigated. Although euthanasia is illegal in France, she has since been freed because the relatives of those who died in the cancer ward where Mme Malèvre worked have not pressed charges. However, she may still be charged.

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Serbs regain control of key Kosovo roads

FROM TOM WALKER IN PRISTINA

SERBIAN police, aided by the tanks and heavy weaponry of the Yugoslav Army, made significant breakthroughs against the Kosovo Liberation Army at the weekend, freeing sections of main road and squeezing guerrillas into a tighter zone.

Mainly targeting KLA front lines and villages near the main arteries of the province, the fearsome assaults have been a severe setback to the separatists. Western military analysts are now asking if the Serbs will push on, hoping to strike final blows to KLA strongholds such as the town of Malisevo, or whether President Milosevic's military machine will await the West's reaction.

The KLA has shown flashes of impressive resistance, notably on the Dujke mountain pass south towards Prizren, scene of similar partisan heroics during the Second World War. The setback should not be interpreted as a defeat, however. In March the guerrillas came back strongly after the Serb village massacres in Drénica and regrouped again after the military offensives in the western borderlands of Decane in May. But the KLA is seeing its supply lines cut and its options narrowed.

Neither side has yet issued casualty figures for the weekend, but the Serbs appear to have avoided widespread



civilian carnage. Around 30 Albanian fighters were said to be lying dead on the road to Pec, near the key Komoran checkpoint that remains the main Serb military line west of Pristina, and KLA casualties on the Dujke mountain pass are said by the Serbs to be in double figures also. Two policemen have been reported killed so far.

The humanitarian repercussions may be more serious. Up to 15,000 Albanian refugees who last week fled the southern town of Orahovac for Malisevo are now on the run again, after at least six artillery shells landed there, giving the lie to Serb claims that the weekend offensive was purely about clearing roads. Red Cross and aid workers say there are hundreds of wounded from the actions of the past week, many of whom will die soon if they do not receive medical treatment.

An Albanian paediatrician

said she had been chased by Serb civilians wielding baseball bats on Saturday in the western border town of Dakovica. "I spent the night there," she said. "It was like waiting to be executed."

The offensives had been widely expected, and Serb police sources in Belgrade have issued a warning that Mr Milosevic is ready to unleash his forces further. The KLA, on the other hand, seems to have been ill-prepared.

However, the guerrillas still breathe defiance. Fighters under a commander known as "The Lion" on the Dujke pass have knocked out at least two army tanks and have kept the road at least partly under guerrilla control, despite the sight of several nearby villages being razed by Serb paramilitaries.



Despair overcomes refugees from the Kosovo town of Orahovac yesterday after they were forced to flee their homes to the village of Bujan

US abandons plan to seize Karadzic

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE United States has abandoned plans to mount a special forces operation to seize Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, the two most wanted indicted war criminals in Bosnia.

The US has been engaged for the past two years in secret plans to bring the two men to trial at the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

However, after spending millions of dollars on training commandos and gathering intelligence with the help of reconnaissance satellites and spy planes, American military chiefs have decided the risk of casualties would be too high, according to *The New York Times*.

There was also concern that an operation to seize the

former Bosnian Serb political leader and former commander of the Bosnian Serb Army could generate renewed Serb aggression in the country.

Britain remains committed to the principle that all indicted war criminals should be detained and sent to The Hague. However, British military commanders have also been reluctant to sanction a specific operation to seek out and arrest Dr Karadzic and General Mladic, considered most responsible for the genocide of Muslims.

The Nato-led Stabilisation Force troops in Bosnia, which includes 5,000 British soldiers, are under orders to arrest indicted war criminals if they come across them in the normal course of their duties.

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Starr subpoena raises stakes

Lawyers seek deal to spare Clinton humiliation, writes Bronwen Maddox from Washington

PRESIDENT CLINTON is determined not to testify in person in front of a grand jury, as the White House struggles to find the least damaging way to respond to a subpoena from Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor.

White House lawyers are racing to thrash out a deal with Mr Starr which would save Mr Clinton from the humiliation of being the first incumbent President to give evidence before a federal grand jury in a criminal investigation.

The disclosure that Mr Starr's grand jury has served Mr Clinton with a subpoena gives the White House its most difficult tactical decisions yet in the battle with Mr Starr. It is a signal that his six-month investigation into whether the President lied about an affair with Monica Lewinsky, a former trainee, and urged her to lie, is nearing its close.

The subpoena sharply increases the pressure on the White House. Mr Clinton is obliged to give a reply by tomorrow, according to reports yesterday.

David Kendall, Mr Clinton's main lawyer, is trying to win a concession allowing Mr Clinton to give evidence on videotape rather than in person, as he has done twice in Mr Starr's Whitewater investigation. Mr Clinton also gave evidence on videotape, under oath and in response to a subpoena, earlier this year in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, a civil suit.

Mr Clinton's lawyers could sit at his side during a videotaped answer. But under grand jury rules, those giving testimony must do so alone, with their lawyers outside the room. Mr Clinton is also said to feel that responding on videotape rather than in person preserves his dignity.

Constitutional experts are deeply divided about whether a sitting President can be forced to give testimony. But it would be politically dangerous for Mr Clinton to refuse.

Don Nickles, a Republican senator from Oklahoma, said yesterday: "Everyone else in America has to obey the law, has to comply with subpoenas." Senior Democrats say there would be little support for him even from his own party, and much concern that his refusal could damage their poll chances in November.

When the stories of Mr Clinton's alleged affair with Ms Lewinsky first surfaced in January, he promised Ameri-



President Clinton with US Navy officers at the weekend commissioning of USS Harry S. Truman, a new nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

Capitol gunman's condition 'serious'

By BRONWEN MADDOX

DOCTORS were yesterday struggling to save the life of the lone gunman in Friday's Capitol Hill shooting, as members of Congress competed with each other to devise plans to prevent a recurrence.

Russell Eugene Weston Jr, charged with killing two police officers and injuring a local woman, was in serious condition after emergency

surgery for gunshot wounds inflicted by one of the officers before he died.

Yesterday more details emerged about the incident and the background of the gunman, a schizophrenic from a remote town in Montana. He fired only three of the six bullets in his revolver and was carrying some extra ammunition.

Police who searched his abandoned truck after the incident found lengthy delusional writings, but no evidence that he was connected to right-wing anti-government groups in his home state.

According to *Newsweek* magazine, the authorities became aware that he could pose a threat two years ago, when he drove to the CIA and demanded an interview to "report stuff". He told the CIA that President Clinton was "a clone" and had arranged the assassination of President

Kennedy because he had stolen Mr Clinton's girlfriend, Marilyn Monroe.

As a result of the shooting, support grew yesterday for a new underground multi-million-dollar visitors' centre which would strengthen security checks on people visiting the Capitol.

But in the flood of words pouring out from members of Congress in the wake of the shooting, two are noticeably

absent: gun control. No one is suggesting curbing the right of Americans to carry guns: the focus yesterday was simply on preventing armed people getting close to their elected representatives.

Trent Lott, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, said: "The security system worked." He added: "This is America. We're not going to let one crazy person drive us into a lockbox."



Weston: told CIA that Clinton was a clone

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Spielberg's war wins US hearts and minds

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

DRAWN by breathless reviews and the sheer power of Steven Spielberg's reputation, Americans flocked at the weekend to his latest offering, a harrowing war epic that opens with what one critic has called "quite possibly the greatest combat sequence ever filmed".

Saving Private Ryan, set during and after D-Day, was expected to earn at least \$25 million (£16 million) in its first three days on general release. It is likely to be remembered longer as the first film to attempt to capture the full horror and chaos of an event Hollywood has hitherto treated as the crowning triumph of the last "good" war.

The scale of the release — on 3,600 screens complete with bold early forecasts of an Oscar sweep — appears for once to have been matched by its impact on audiences. All that was missing, one veteran has said after seeing it, was "the odour of cordite and the sickening stench of death".

The film tells the story of a motley platoon's mission to rescue one soldier from behind enemy lines after officials learn that his mother is about to be told that her three other sons have died in action.

It opens with a 24-minute re-enactment of the US attack on Omaha Beach, filmed last year with 3,000 extras on a remote stretch of the Co Wexford coast in Ireland.

The *New York Times* commented: "This film simply looks at war as if war had not been looked at before."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Angola mines delay massacre inquiry

Lisbon: The UN mission overseeing Angola's peace process said that freshly laid landmines were hampering its attempts to investigate a massacre in which up to 200 villagers are believed to have been killed in an attack in a diamond-mining village about 250 miles east of Luanda.

Survivors allege the attackers were from Unita, but the guerrilla group — which signed a peace pact with the Government in 1994 to end a two-decade civil war — denied the accusations. Government sources indicated that 215 people had been killed in the attack and 70 wounded. (AP)

Georgian minister quits

Tbilisi: Niko Lekishvili, the Georgian State Minister and top minister in the political hierarchy under President Shevardnadze, has resigned, the first step in an expected far-reaching government shake-up. Mr Lekishvili, who co-ordinated the work of ministries within a system in which there is no Prime Minister, said that Mr Shevardnadze had accepted the resignation. (Reuters) Leading article, page 21

Japan mass poisoner fear

Tokyo: Police launched an investigation into suspected mass murder after dozens of people ate curry and rice contaminated with cyanide at a local festival in western Japan. Four victims died and 60 were being treated in hospital. Police flooded the small community of Wakayama, 250 miles west of Tokyo, with 150 extra officers. (Reuters)

Kim on brink of top post

Seoul: In a prelude to a probable rise to the presidency, Kim Jong Il, North Korea's leader, was elected with about 670 others to the one-chamber parliament. Less than an hour after voting ended, the official Korean Central News Agency announced the election of Mr Kim, 56, to the Supreme People's Assembly, the rubber-stamp legislature. (AP)

2,000 Thais a day lose jobs

Bangkok: Unemployment in crisis-hit Thailand has worsened with about 2,000 workers losing their jobs daily since the beginning of this month, a local newspaper reported. Trairong Suwanakhrin, the Labour Minister, as saying. Jobs were being lost through businesses closing due to the current economic turmoil. (Reuters)

Four-hour Havel operation

Prague: Vaclav Havel, right, the Czech President, underwent four hours of surgery at a military hospital to help him recover full use of his intestine, the CTX agency reported. Mr Havel, 61, is expected to spend two to three weeks in hospital, followed by about six weeks convalescing at home. (AFP)

Salvage team dispirited

Helsinki: Divers who salvaged alcohol from a wreck in the Baltic found that the 92-year-old champagne was still bubbling. But the cognac was a disappointment and appeared to be just undistilled grape mash. The *Jonkoping* had been lying on the seabed off Finland since 1916, when a German U-boat sank it. (AP)

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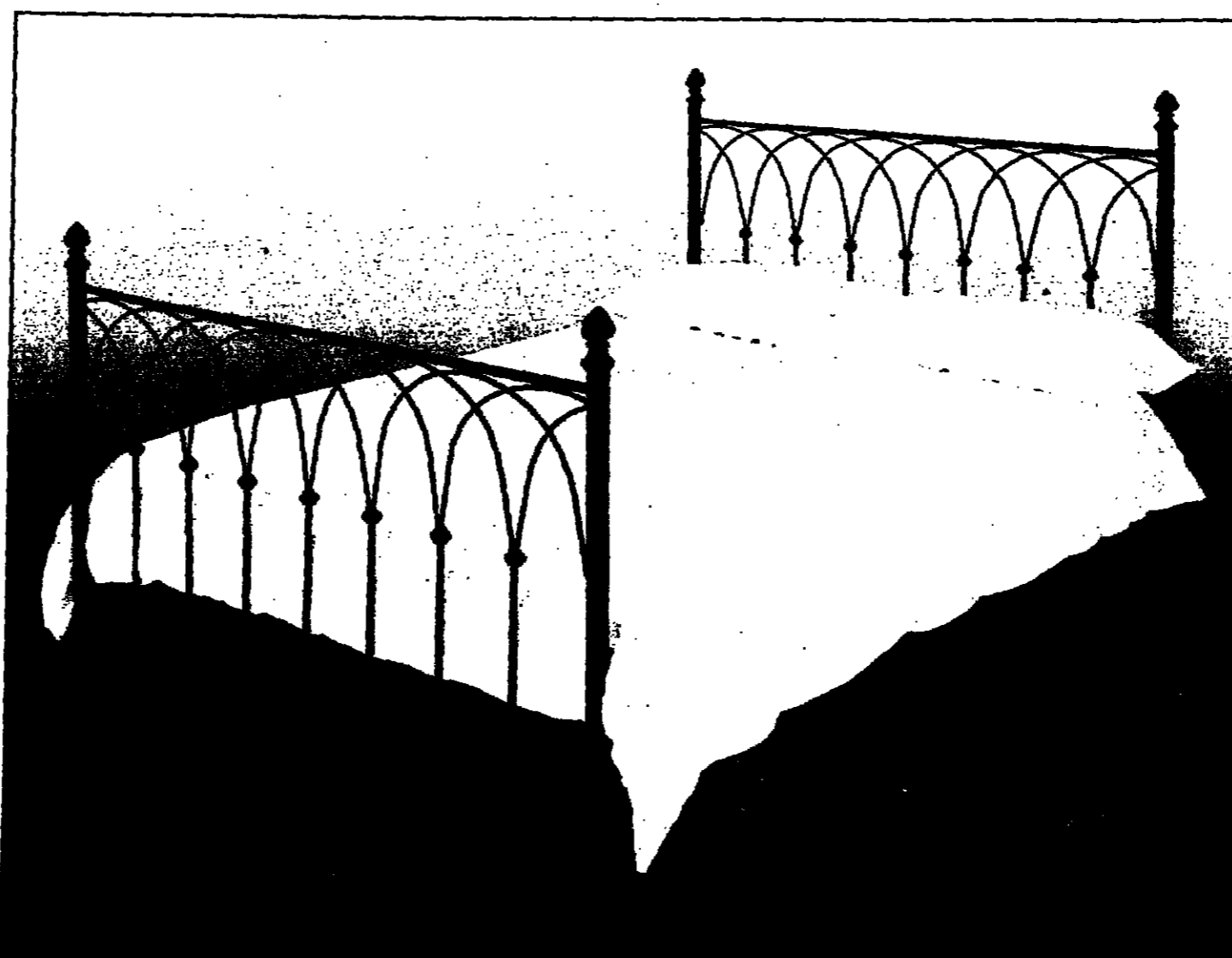
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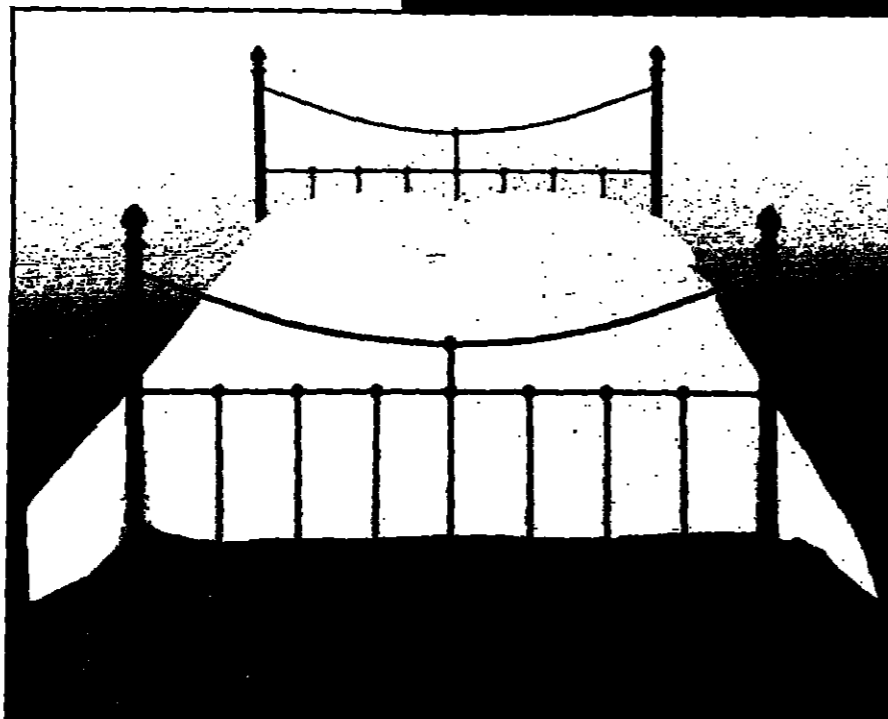
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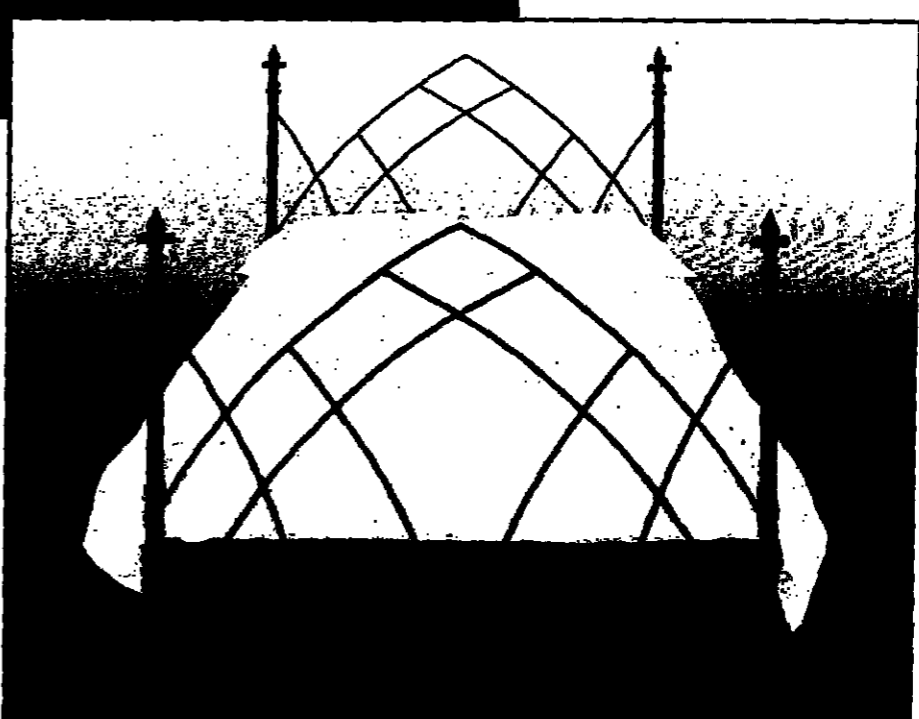
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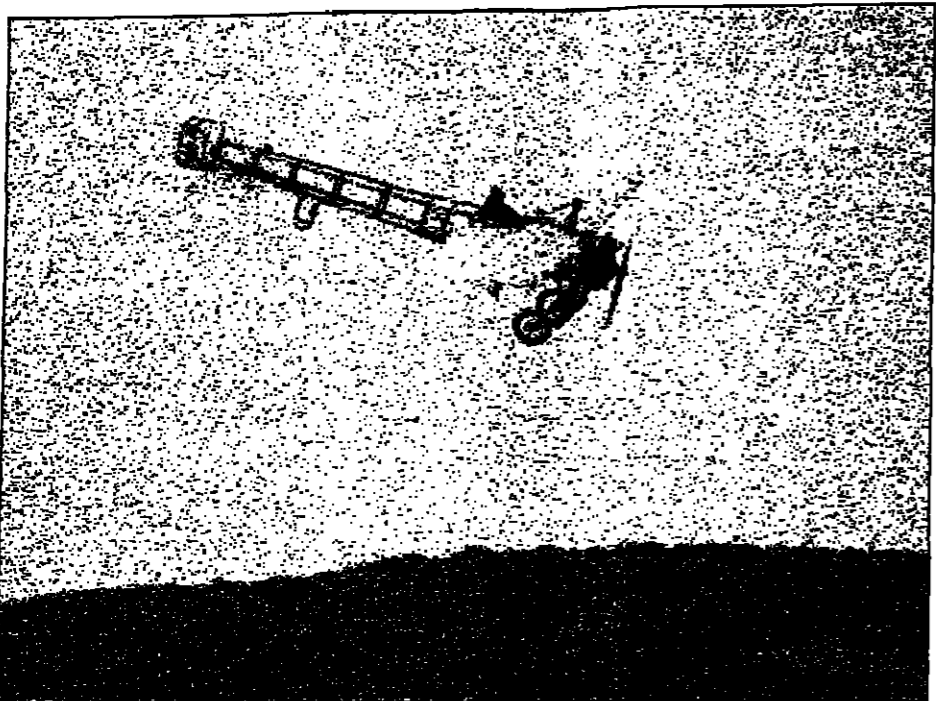
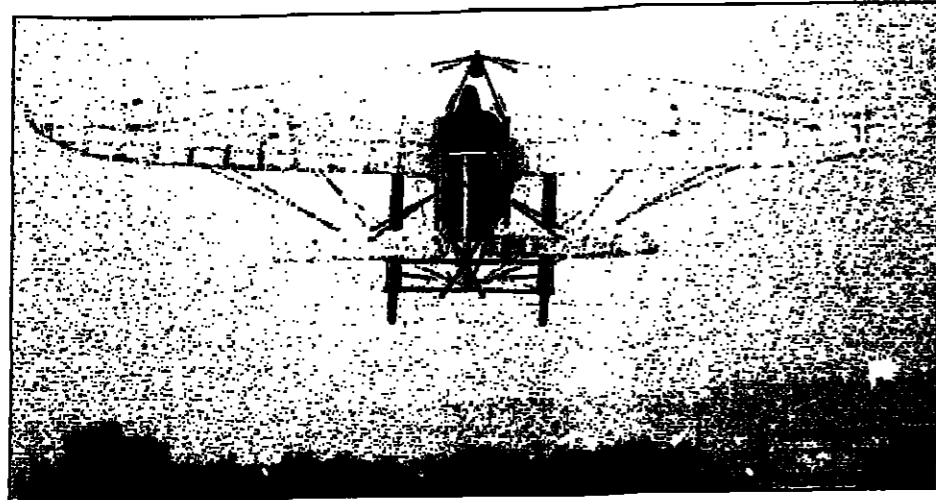
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History takes a dive for Blériot grandson

CHRIS EADES



The elderly Type XI monoplane takes off at dawn yesterday, top, before going into a dive less than a minute later, leaving the latter-day M Blériot cooling his heels amid the wreckage of his aircraft in a lake near Calais

Louis Blériot's bid to re-enact the inaugural cross-Channel flight of his grandfather and namesake, the great French aviator, ended in damp humiliation yesterday after he was forced to ditch in a lake just moments after take-off (Ben Macintyre and Eve-Anne Prentice write).

M Blériot, a 54-year-old banker who took up flying ten years ago, set off at dawn from Calais airport in one of three surviving Blériot monoplanes, hoping to repeat his grandfather's 1909 feat by landing on the white cliffs of Dover.

The flimsy Type XI plane got only a few hundred yards and remained airborne for little more than a minute before splash-landing in the

lake. M Blériot sat on his partly submerged aircraft until being rescued. He was unhurt and the plane was pulled from the lake with a broken right wing. He said it could be repaired. "It is very disappointing. As soon as I started to bank, the plane did not respond normally. I cannot explain why."

Arnaud Hentute, a film director, who had confidently predicted the flight would be a success, said: "Lots of people who have tried to cross the Channel in old-fashioned planes have ended up in the water. Crossing like this is almost as complicated as going to walk on the Moon."

From the start, the latter-day M Blériot was flying in the

face of overwhelming odds. At 54, he is 17 years older than his grandfather was when he became the first person to fly the Channel. His weight is also crucial in the flimsy Type XI which weighs just 525lb and which he bought from the Shuttleworth air museum in Bedfordshire 20 years ago.

Nine years ago, on an 80th anniversary attempt to re-create the flight, a petite 7st 10lb English pilot, Gloria Pullen, had to be pulled from the sea three miles short of Dover when the aeroplane lost power. The original Blériot weighed 12st and his grandson is just two pounds lighter.

The wood-and-wire Blériot Type XI with a three-cylinder engine, was one of only three

airworthy models known to remain of the 800 built and M Blériot was not able to fly it in training for fear of over-stressing the ancient aircraft.

To fly the aircraft, pilots must master a technique known as wing warping — where the wires attached to the wings are manipulated by foot pedals. The Wright brothers pioneered the system.

In 1909, Blériot's aircraft was towed to the take-off field by a white horse. After asking his engineer "which way to Dover?", the aviator took off, headed out to sea and quickly became disoriented. Eventually, the cliffs of Dover emerged through the haze. The aircraft made an ungainly landing which broke the front struts.



The original Louis Blériot after his ungainly Dover landing in 1909 at the end of his cross-Channel flight

Advertisement Feature

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For instance, you could take a look at Zurich Municipal's mortgage protection policy. Part

of Europe's third largest insurance group, they can arrange cover for you from just £5 a month. It's all done over the phone in minutes. Their policies provide great value for money and they don't pay their staff commission — which means no pressured selling. And just by working in the public sector, you are entitled to a special 15% discount.

When Graham Powell, who has a career in the public sector, changed from an endowment to a repayment mortgage, he was required to take out mortgage protection. After receiving a quote from his mortgage lender, Graham decided to phone around for some alternative quotes. He was delighted to discover that he could save

nearly £90 a year if he took out the policy with Zurich Municipal. Over the 18-year period of cover, this certainly adds up to a significant saving.

Graham, from Corsham, Wiltshire, is married to Jane and has a young son, Tom. With a busy lifestyle, he found taking out a policy with Zurich Municipal extremely easy. He says: "The person on the end of the phone was very friendly and efficient, and the quote only took a few minutes. I was also very happy to discover I could have a 15% discount because of my job, which meant the premium was the cheapest one I found. I would certainly recommend Zurich Municipal to my friends and family."

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Examples shown include public sector discount. Monthly premiums are dependent on a number of factors and in particular are higher for males, smokers and older ages. Cover and premiums are subject to individual assessment.

Apart from mortgage protection, Zurich Municipal also offers term assurance, which provides straight life cover without any connection to your mortgage. They can also cover you for critical illness, so that you would receive a lump sum if one of a range of specific illnesses was diagnosed.

All round, Zurich Municipal is well worth considering for insurance cover. Why not phone them on 0800 147 147 — it's free. Their helpful staff are ready to take your call from 9am to 8pm Monday to Friday, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Please quote the reference TIM2707.



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Election day attack by Khmer Rouge

Phnom Penh: Remnants of the Khmer Rouge launched a bloody election day attack yesterday, but otherwise millions of Cambodians voted peacefully after a campaign marked in its earlier stages by violence and intimidation (James Pringle writes).

Although counting does not begin until today, indications

were that Hun Sen, Cambodia's leader, may have received a setback in his bid to legitimise the absolute power he seized a year ago. A coalition with his former enemies again looks inevitable.

Seven civilians and two soldiers were killed in the pre-dawn guerrilla attack on a government position near

Anlong Veng, the former Khmer Rouge headquarters in northern Cambodia, but the attackers were driven off.

Hun Sen called the election a "victory for democracy" and said he expected to win, but added that he would step down and swiftly hand over power if his formerly communist Cambodian People's Par-

ty (CPP) did not gain victory. Some foreign diplomats were sceptical that he would hand over power so easily.

Analysts said the most likely outcome was a coalition, with the CPP again sharing power with the royalist Funcinpec party of Prince Norodom Ranariddh which it ousted by military force last year.

Ex-spy to take over Russian security

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin has sacked the head of Russia's intelligence service, appointing in his place a man who had previously been a KGB spy in Germany.

Emerging from his holiday retreat among the birch groves of Karelia, he gave no reason for the abrupt dismissal of Nikolai Kovalyov as head of the Federal Security Service, the successor to the KGB. But in a bizarre woodland press conference he said only that he kept a close check on what was going on and monitored his ministers' performance all the time.

"You do not necessarily know why someone is dismissed. You tend to think that he is a nice man because he shaves daily," he told journalists, while Sergei Kiriyenko, his youthful Prime Minister, looked on bemused at the logic.

"I know what he is doing, of every case, of every crime, solved or not," Mr Yeltsin said. "A decision to dismiss may seem illogical and incomprehensible, but I make one when I cannot tolerate the situation any longer."

In place of the hapless Mr Kovalyov, an energetic administrator who gave regular briefings and set up a hotline for Russians to report anyone they suspected of feeding intelligence to foreigners, Mr Yeltsin appointed Vladimir Putin, 45, a law graduate from St Petersburg, who speaks fluent German and began working for the KGB in 1975.

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The nature of nurture

New research suggests our genes do not tell everything about the way we are, says Anjana Ahuja

Robert Plomin shakes his head as he picks through his salad. He is embarrassed and admits he is embarrassed: "It's unbelievable. Everywhere we look, we find that genes have a substantial influence. I'm embarrassed by how important genetics is turning out to be."

This is a peculiar thing for him to say, because Professor Plomin is one of the most eminent behavioural geneticists in the world. Even if you haven't heard his name, you will know of his research.

Previously based at the University of Colorado and now deputy director of the Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Research Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, his achievements include the discovery of a gene for intelligence (or, more correctly, a gene which accounts for a tiny fraction of the variation in intelligence). It was revealed last week that his team of researchers had found a gene for language ability in young children.

You might have thought this would plant him firmly on the nature side of the nature v nurture debate in the discussion of how genes and environment shape individual personality. But Professor Plomin adopts an unexpected stance. He thinks the pendulum has swung too far in his favour: "Once, everybody thought environment was all-important, and the only thing that mattered was the way you were brought up. Then behavioural genetics came along and it seemed that genes was everything and environment was nothing. Actually, environment is terribly important too."

Take schizophrenia. Identical twins, who have identical genes, have a 50 per cent concordance on the condition. That means that if one twin develops it, the other has a 50 per cent chance of developing it. Since their genes are the same whether they develop schizophrenia or not, it must be to do with environment. It's an amazing finding.

Further support for the significance of environment comes from a new study by Professor Plomin of 720 American families, each featuring a mother, father and two adolescent children. According to conventional belief, children brought up in the same home share the same environment. So one would expect natural brothers and sisters to share



Mother nature's child? New research indicates that environment has a significant role to play in our development

many traits. However, they can be poles apart in personality. But Professor Plomin and his colleagues discovered that the issue of environment was more complex than previously thought. For one thing, it turned out that parents often treated each child differently, or were perceived as treating each child differently. This implied that each child in the family was being nurtured in a slightly different environment. "For example, some adoles-

cents felt their parents were more antagonistic to them than to their brother or sister. So you think: "This explains why one child develops antisocial behaviour." But when you see a video of the parent and child together, you realise the parent is reacting to the child's aggressive behaviour. How can a parent be loving when their child is acting like a jerk? Genes are affecting the family environment."

It raises the possibility that people choose or shape their surroundings according to their genes. This has led Professor Plomin to think about nature v nurture not as a tug-of-war between disparate influences but as part of one phenomenon. He has renamed it the "nature of nurture".

Professor Plomin also thinks that experiences outside the home for each sibling may be significant in moulding character traits. "It's a shot in the arm for the environmentalists. It opens up opportunities for studying gene-environment correlations."

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'It raises a possibility that we choose how genes work'

Some might suggest that, if environment is so important, why should we pour in millions of pounds teasing out genetic influences, especially if individual genes have such minuscule effects? "Behavioural genetics is a scientific target but it's also a practical target," he says. "For example, society could provide preventive therapy for those at risk from alcoholism or drug abuse: "Alcoholism wrecks lives. But we wait to see who develops it and then step in with cures that don't work. If we have the genetic markers, we should use them to alleviate suffering. Preventive medicine is the future."

The concerns raised over possible pre-natal testing to screen out certain diseases do not bother him unduly. "When the amniocentesis test was developed, people thought it was the end of the world. But women chose to have it. Why would

a woman do it unless she was prepared to contemplate abortion? If mothers were selecting for certain traits, that would be dodgy."

What about discrimination by employers and insurance companies against those found to be at risk of developing disease? "That would not be ethical but I am sure we will have laws to protect against it."

He thinks most people, provided there are preventive treatments available, would prefer to know their genetic destiny, despite the drawbacks. He also objects to the idea that geneticists are part of a right-wing conspiracy to engage in dodgy social engineering. (Professor Plomin, who grew up in inner-city Chicago, is a Labour supporter.) He elects not to study topics such as the differences in intelligences across race and class. "I'm too chicken to do stuff like that," he says. What especially bugs him is when the word "Nazi" is mentioned in the same breath as behavioural genetics, as happened on the Today programme last week. "Some of the media seem to want to protect the public from the wicked scientists," he sighs. "It's a very condescending view and I am willing to bet that the man in the street isn't that worried."

"Geneticists have this anecdote about parents, which I think has a measure of truth about it: when parents have one child, they think the kid's behaviour is down to how they are bringing them up. When they have a second child and they start noticing big personality differences, they begin believing in genetics."

In a way, he says, the ethical concerns surrounding the field of behavioural genetics constitute a badge of honour. "All great advances in science have problems," Professor Plomin reflects. "So it's terrific that we have given ethicists so much to think about."

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Beetles amass chemical weapons

PUPAE of the squash beetle have been found to possess a most commendable talent. Unable to fly or crawl, a pupa fends off predators by exuding nasty chemicals from hairs on its body. But that is not all — further inspection revealed that as time progressed, the oily secretions changed structure. It means that somewhere inside the beetle is a chemical arms factory churning out lots of different chemical defences using one set of chemical building blocks.



SCIENCE BRIEFING Anjana Ahuja

That makes the squash beetle the first known exponent of natural "combinatorial chemistry", according to some experts. Pharmaceutical companies already invest in combinatorial techniques because playing around with the building blocks of one successful drug might throw up another useful compound. The technique — a kind of chemical Lego — can even be carried out on computer and the properties of the simulated chemical deduced in theory.

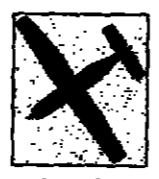
When several versions were reconstructed in the laboratory, they did indeed repel ants. The compounds linger in the droplets because they are too heavy to evaporate. But the chemical capers continue even after secretion. After a while, some of the rings spontaneously rearrange their chemical bonds so the structure changes slightly. All the while, the pupa is pumping out more new chemicals. So, as time passes, the pupa is concocting a progressively more varied mixture of repellents.

It is possible that the beetles evolved this useful defence because multiple chemicals are better at thwarting attackers than just one. "It could be that the beetle doesn't know how to control the process, that it's sloppy," Jerrold Meinwald, who supervised the research, told Science magazine recently. Others believe it doesn't matter whether the beetle knows what it is doing. "It's really pretty nifty for evolution to have come up with this way of upping chemical diversity," says Thomas Eisner, a co-author.

There are already suggestions that the chemical secrets of such insects could be exploited to control particularly hardy pests, such as mosquitoes. Entomologists are watching with interest — it is thought that only 5 per cent of insects have been identified, let alone had their chemical secrets unravelled. "I revel in the thought that insects are the great frontier," Eisner adds.

• Nigel Hawkes is away

First unmanned Atlantic crossing?



NEXT month, two model aircraft will attempt the first unmanned flights across the Atlantic. The Aerosomes, built in Australia to collect meteorological data, will retrace the route made famous by Alcock and Brown when they flew non-stop from Newfoundland to Co Galway, Ireland.

The aircraft will be "flown" by a computer-controlled autopilot and will be in radio contact for only the first and last 60 miles.

A third aircraft will be on standby in case the first two fail.

The aircraft have a 10ft wingspan and weigh about 30lb, with fuel making up just less than half the weight. They will cruise at a speed of 50 knots, at an altitude of 5,000-15,000ft.

Engineers supervising the attempt have chosen August because there is only a small chance of gales, and tailwinds are more favourable. If all goes well, the only question is whether the aircraft will exactly replicate the feat of Alcock and Brown by landing in a peat bog.

Flipper comes to aid of divers



THOSE who spend their time exploring shipwrecks will be fascinated by Patent 5,746,631, issued in America recently to a Californian company called Nature's Wing. It relates to a new design of flipper that, when worn by divers, can reduce oxygen consumption by up to 40 per cent.

The efficiency saving comes from the fact that the flipper looks like a fishtail rather than a duck's webbed foot. The two V-shaped fins on each flipper rotate, propelling the diver through the water. Ankle-rolling is a much less vigorous action than the bent-knee kick, thus reducing the amount of oxygen expended. It also increases speed by 30 per cent, according to its designer, Pete MacCarthy, who ditched his job as a software salesman two years ago to develop his flipper.

Trials by a scuba-testing company suggest that the fishtail design allows divers to reduce oxygen consumption by between 20 and 40 per cent. The patent has already been licensed to several manufacturers and the flippers will be appearing later this summer.

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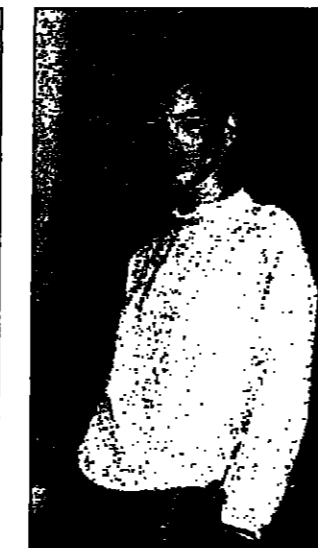
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TOP LEFT: Erin O'Connor in Givenchy's pistachio draped-front dress with white flower embroidery. Feathered headress by Philip Treacy.

TOP CENTRE: John Galiano for Christian Dior — 17th-century-style navy wool dress embroidered with Moorish-style antique gold cord and frogging.

TOP RIGHT: Christian Lacroix presents a new, leaner line. A tuchsia flower-embroidered tulle twinset over long, shocking-pink satin skirt, with a black lace underslip.

MAIN PICTURE: Versace evening gown with sequined cargo pockets.

BOTTOM, FROM LEFT: John Paul Gaultier beaded jacket over a black velvet skirt; Esther Cenades in Chanel's midnight blue pleated skirt with tulle overskirt and double-layer corset with abstract "spirograph" embroidery; exquisite little black dress embroidered with jet and sprinkled with feathers, from Ungaro; John Paul Gaultier's Scottish air is displayed in this Aran sweater and big tartan mohair skirt.



30p

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Wild theatrics, endless fantasy — but is there anything to wear in the latest collections? Style Editor Grace Bradberry reports

It is almost two years since the announcement that John Galiano and Alexander McQueen were to take the helm at Christian Dior and Givenchy respectively.

At the time there was much talk that these two British designers would lead a resurgence in the thoroughly French art of *haute couture*. There has indeed been a resurgence — at least in media interest — but is it really being led by the Brits?

To judge by last week's shows, McQueen seems to be off on a trip all of their own. The theatrics were wild, but the point of the clothes was harder to divine.

Last season McQueen seemed finally to get the hang of couture with a serenely beautiful Zen collection. This season he took a step back with the kind of thematic fusion (Catherine the Great in the Amazonian rainforest) that Galiano goes in for.

There were some spectacular show pieces — notably Alek Wek's astonishing cape of forest foliage — but there just didn't seem to be a core of pieces that were both wearable and related to one another.

You could argue, of course, that couture is now a fantasy for everyone rather than a reality for a lucky few women. But part of the fantasy is that "nose-pressed-against-glass" quality that exists only when you can imagine someone, somewhere, wearing the stuff.

That was the problem at Dior, where there appeared to be no directional fashion statement amid the historical pastiche. Thigh boots, Henry the Eighth coats and Indian Victorian dresses of the kind that missionaries encouraged the natives to wear are all very

well — and they doubtless took hundreds of hours of embroidery in the atelier of Francois Lesage — but what was the point? No one is ever going to wear them again.

In the event, it was actually Jean Paul Gaultier and Karl Lagerfeld, at Chanel, who provided the real couture fantasy this season despite the simplicity of their presentations.

What Gaultier had — which others lacked — was subtlety. His black crepe "trench dress" was a joy to behold; it turned out to be a bolero with epaulettes over a long, impossibly elegant backless dress. A tartan mohair skirt hinted at draughty Scottish castles without going for the full *Rob Roy* effect, while beaded flowers on jackets were both simultaneously traditional and modern.

But did Gaultier have to use quite so much fur? A full-length dress of the stuff was gratuitously horrid, while a bomber jacket with fox fur lining was tasteless.

Gaultier wasn't the only designer to receive the attentions of the Brigitte Bardot Foundation.

Dior and Givenchy were heaving with chinchilla and mink, while Lacroix showed mink-trimmed shoes and a sable stole.

In other respects Lacroix was a bit more restrained this season — though it's all a question of degree.

The French designer's talk of a stiletto silhouette promised respite for British sensibilities (even if Karl Lagerfeld did use a similar expression four seasons ago), and indeed there were some lean lines and

wonderful Miss Havisham jackets with rags of lace.

Then it all became too much for Lacroix, who made free with the gold fairy dust, rhinestones and billowing Olivia de Havilland satin skirts.

Also in the mood for upholstery was Donatella Versace, who stuffed her collection with horsehair and some copper wire for good measure. The best pieces were the little silk dresses and suits in ice pinks and greens with threads attached, though even they looked a little hairy. Perhaps this hirsuteness added to the oddly asexual quality of the show. Even when acres of flesh were revealed by dresses which were long at the front and short at the back, there was none of the *frisson* of Donatella's ready-to-wear collections.

Having been pressed half to death by the heavy heat of so many shows, I found it actually a joy to attend the Ungaro show, with its long, slim skirts, exquisite little black dresses and sexy, flowery evening wear.

Light-headedness came at last in the Chanel collection, however.

The modernity of his clothes lies in their apparent simplicity, and in the nod towards current trends.

To wear a double-layer dress that looks utterly simple but is, in fact, trimmed with seed pearls is the ultimate luxury, while it's interesting to note that Lagerfeld was virtually the only designer to use modern, abstract embroidery.

The classic suit was reborn again, this time with either pleat skirts or a long, lean, boho silhouette, while the fringing on the pockets echoed more commercial trends.

Historical pageantry is fine, but I know what I'd spend my £20,000 *haute couture* gift voucher on.

Lacroix made free with gold fairy dust and satin skirts

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The old school tie that makes sense

A poll says school uniforms should be compulsory. Valerie Grove, puts the parents view, Matilda Blyth reflects on her schooldays and Amiel Billetop speaks for pupils



In a class of their own: a new poll suggest that most parents and pupils are now in favour of school uniforms

If David Blunkett ever succeeds in bringing back compulsory school uniforms in State schools, he will score top marks with parents. They have had quite enough of seeing their children going off to school in clothes they found on a skip. He will also prove once again that New Labour can dare to do what the Tories would never have attempted for fear of seeming too elitist, retro and traditionalist.

boarders: a garb made ludicrous by St Trinian's and, for some, sexy in porn magazines. Nor, surely, would he oblige lubberly lads to stay in Just William caps and knee-length grey flannel shorts, as some prep schools do even today.

the number of them flung into the Thames at the end of term. Little boys in school caps look prissy. Big boys in caps look daft. Yet the struggle to get caps abolished could be herculean, as T. C. Worsley recounted in his autobiography, *Flannelled Fool*.

It upset my mum

MATILDA BLYTH is 27 and has mixed emotions about experiences with school uniforms. "School uniforms plagued my childhood. For 12 years I was decked out in royal blue blazer, beret and regulation grey skirt. I felt like an individual, but I was indistinguishable in a sea of faces - and the uniform was an overhead my single-parent family could do without."

wear what I wanted. Then, at 17, I thought I had been saved. I received a bursary to go to one of the most expensive co-education boarding schools in Britain. Since Bedales School prides itself on being progressive, pupils don't wear uniform. I set off in the belief that my clothes wouldn't matter.

dress developed out of mourning for George III. Only in this century did an identifiable mode of dress take root and spread to state schools.

now allowed to wear trousers. The French have always had a sensible attitude to uniform. Lycée and école normale pupils could wear what they liked, but on top they wore a coloured blouson, a kind of overall, like an artist's smock.

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Dress rules should be firm

AMIEL BILLETOP, 15, is a prefect at De Lisle Roman Catholic School in Loughborough, Leicestershire.

"We wear a black or navy blue jumper and skirt, and a white shirt with a yellow and blue striped tie. Obviously, we try and individualise it a bit - some people wear very long or short skirts, others wear much baggier shirts than you would normally wear to school.

"But the rules are strict and so they should be. Our skirts must be approximately knee-length. High heels and denim jackets are out too.

"Sometimes uniform cause problems. When parents can't afford something a child might be bullied for looking scruffy.

"There is always peer pressure to get smart shoes. If you don't have them that can lead to nasty remarks.

"I also think that it is sexist to insist that we wear skirts and not trousers in winter when it is cold. That is a rule which should be relaxed.

"But, generally, I am happy wearing a uniform. It gives you a sense of identity, of belonging to the school. It is like being in a football team - you are all wearing the same strip on the same side. That gives you a sense of pride in your school, brings you all together.

"Another benefit is that you never have to think about what you are going to wear in the morning. The discipline of wearing it serves you in good stead for the future. If you are used to turning up smartly dressed at school every day, you will do the same when you start work."

Le vin is so ordinaire for the French

Twentysomethings now prefer cola to wine, says Simon Rawles

At Café Imprevu, a cosmopolitan hangout near the Pompidou Centre, in Paris, Gilles, 26, and his friends order two beers, a mineral water and an orange juice.

changing nature of society. "Forty years ago wine was an important cultural symbol for the ruling and the working classes and this is no longer the case.



Change French drinkers

Wine is no longer part of our culture. It is something that belongs to the past," he says. "Most people prefer beer and spirits."

During the past 30 years the consumption of vins de table has dropped by more than 50 per cent, which suggests that it is not just the younger generation which is eroding a French institution.

sales of vintage wine are flourishing. "Today the French drink less but drink better," says Francis, manager of Taxi Jaune, a bar which attracts the young upwardly mobile crowd.

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Bad boy's back in town

THEATRE: The last time he was here Stacy Keach was in jail.
Andy Lavender reports

Fans of pop culture will know Stacy Keach as the star of the hard-boiled American TV series *Mike Hammer*. Fans of classical theatre will know him as one of America's most celebrated thespians. Fans of movies will recall him from the likes of *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*. But fans of the English criminal justice system will remember him as probably the second most famous person to have been incarcerated at Reading jail after he was caught in possession of cocaine.

That was Keach's last stay in this country, but his current visit promises to be more pleasurable. Keach lines up in the seventh cast of the West End production of Art, Yasmina Reza's hit play, alongside fellow Americans David Dukes and George Wendt. The new casting, which shrewdly prolongs the show's cachet, is the result of a deal between British and American Equity (an all-British cast will tread the boards of New York's Royale Theatre this autumn).

Keach plays Marc, the aeronautical engineer who scoffs at his friend Serge for his purchase of an all-white painting, thereby triggering alternate bouts of accusation and scolding between three long-standing friends. As far as Keach is concerned, the transatlantic spin doesn't alter the play's basic dynamics. "The situations are funny, and there's irony," he says. "The repartee has a kind of absurdist quality. The repetitions remind me a little of Beckett and Ionesco. But it is by no means exclusively comedic. There's a very dark side to this play. It's hard, because there's lots of laughs in the early part and the actors can be seduced by that. But then you'd have trouble at the other end."

The Broadway production opened in March this year, and promptly won the Tony Award for Best Play. Such swift acclaim matches the play's history in the West End where it has won both the Olivier Award for Best Comedy and the Evening Standard Drama Award. Early opinion was nonetheless divided. *Art* was hailed by some critics as an ingenious mini-masterpiece, and sniffed at by others as an artificial piece of candyfloss. "I can see where that criticism could be levelled at the play," says Keach. "But that's why it's important for the production to anchor it in some kind of depth. I think the candyfloss aspect is the cover for the pain. Marc is a man who I think is deeply rooted in strains of megalomania."

"One of the reasons that I've done this" - he runs his hand over his shaved pate - "is



RICHARD POHLE

Serving new time for his Art: the actor Stacy Keach prepares to join the new all-American cast of Yasmina Reza's hit play at Wyndham's Theatre

because I felt that he was a man apart. He calls himself a maverick. Marc's character uses sardonic humour as a cover for a pain that's beneath it, and the trick is to reveal what's going on underneath by the time you get toward the end of the play."

There are additional reasons for Keach to make the trip to London. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art in 1965. He came back a few years later to work on films and mini-series, and did a stint at the National Theatre. "Then of course came my problems 14 years ago," he says. "It's sort of a personal absolution, putting things back on an even keel."

Keach speaks as though his imprisonment occasioned a Pauline conversion. He was caught with his private stash as he came through Customs on a fleeting visit from Paris to do a day's work on another film. The result was six months inside, time enough to experience "the wild regrets, and the bloody sweats" described by former inmate Oscar Wilde.

"It was the lowest point of my life, certainly," he says. "Humiliating, degrading, stupid. I also felt, in a way, relief."

It brought me to my knees, that whole experience. I thought I was never going to work again."

You might think the entire episode would have led to a resentment of things British, but Keach claims that the opposite is the case. "I felt in many ways that it was a blessing. I've always said that I have a great debt to British taxpayers, because they were supporting my rehabilitation." He admits a different kind of

obligation to his wife Malgosia, whom he had just met at the time, who apparently "slept on a kitchen table just so that she could be near for the visits that came up once a month on Sundays for two hours."

That was then. The Keach *de nos jours*, as well as being an established actor, is a pillar of the community. He is a member of the Artists' Rights Foundation, which campaigns against gratuitous tampering

with films, and sits on the Kennedy Centre Honours Advisory Council, helping to decide annually which of his peers will receive America's highest accolade for artists. And he is the honorary chairman of the American Cleft Palate Foundation, a lobbying organisation which provides advice and support to parents of children born, as was Keach himself, with the condition.

The image is of a man comfortable with his place in

the scheme of things. "I've always had a similar syndrome to Jack Lemmon," he says. "Once you've finished a project you think you'll never work again. That's happened to me so often that I've decided not to get desperate. You have to let it go and not care so much. It takes a lot of time and a lot of living to learn that."

• The all-American cast of Art gives its first performance at Wyndham's Theatre (0171-369 1736) tomorrow

A few gems short of a treasure

Blame the English weather. Last year the first night of the Open Air's summer musical was interrupted by violent storms, depriving the Regent's Park audience of what was clearly a super *Kiss Me Kate*. This year the clouds cleared and the evening sun smiled on *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, allowing Ian Talbot's plucky but over-strenuous cast to expose it for what it is, a less-than-great example of the mid-century Broadway humalong.

Nothing wrong with the songs, or at least several of them. Though Leo Robin's lyrics are mostly less accomplished than Julie Styne's music, both men excelled themselves when they composed *Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend* and did pretty well when they turned to *Just a Girl from Little Rock*. But the book demands unusually skilful performances if it is not to seem skimpy and silly, and at the Open Air they just aren't unusual enough.

In *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* the gem-loving ingenue from Little Rock is a mildly revisionist, because slightly less



go-getting, version of the protagonist of Anita Loos's original novel. She was acquitted of murder in Arkansas after shooting a man and christened Lorelei Lee by her besotted trial judge. "It's the name of a girl who became famous for sitting on a rock in Germany," she explains in what, oddly, turns out to be the show's one genuinely amusing spoken line. Her trip to Paris, her rejection by the rich, dim fiancé who had known nothing of her past, her reconciliation and her belated wedding bells fail to produce the hilarity they should.

Partly that is because the comic personnel tends to suffer from terminal crassness. The characters exploring the chrome columns and stairs of Paul Farnsworth's 1920s set include a crook with a mania for alcohol, a health freak

who gorges carrots and, worst of all, a Drones-Club nob with an eye for the ladies and a ten-ton wife who oppresses him. There are a lot of Bernard Manning-style jokes at her expense, but even they seem more tolerable than the ribbing given the French, here a squawking, screaming pair of lawyers.

But there is also trouble at the production's core. Clive Rowe, an affable softie, is fine as Lorelei's fiancé. Debby Bishop, playing her chaperone, is so splendidly brash when she sings and moves that you forgive her for what's anyway not her fault, failing to make crude insults sound witty. But Sara Crowe, whose comic guile I usually admire, is all wrong as Lorelei. Callow pouting is not enough for the part. Nor is the sub-Monroe shimmer Crowe gives while falling to bring style and weight to her ode to diamonds. No, the role needs vox, charm and sly fun; and without them the show founders, even without the rain.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Determined to enjoy himself

Only a fortnight ago, an overcrowded summer festival schedule was close to claiming Pulp's Finsbury Park concert as its latest victim. However, just as slow ticket sales threatened to send Saturday's all-day event the way of the Lighthouse Family's recently cancelled show at the same venue, London's weather got warmer. As soon as sun was forecast, an audience of 35,000 was expected.

A support bill of seven bands started shortly after midday. Allegedly, the acts had been hand-picked by Pulp's Jarvis Cocker. If true, the singer certainly has eclectic taste. The murky Moog sound of synth band Aid N'To (Q) and the beautiful, ambient beats of Parisian musician Kid Loco sat oddly beside Ultra-sound's widescreen prog rock. Stranger still, a frantic set from fun-loving dance duo Bentley Rhythm Ace was followed by Bernard Butler's traditional R&B. As dark clouds gathered overhead, the former Suede guitarist and his band trawled through a series of uninspiring jams.

In contrast, a lively, enthusiastic Catatonia played guitar tunes which sounded fresh and fun. Clad in a figure-hugging pink and orange chiffon dress, loaded with jewellery and sporting three diamond studs between her eyebrows, Cerys Matthews looked every inch pop's most stylish new star. Her extraordinary sing-song vocals and endearingly down-to-earth personality had the audience transfixed. Although former big hit *Road Rage* was by far the strongest song of the set, it was *Sweet Catatonia*, the

POP
Pulp
Finsbury Park

band's obscure debut single, which sent fans into a frenzy. Pulp's appearance was preceded by a celebrity evacuation of the VIP area. Eddie Izzard, Supergrass and Robbie Williams were among those who wanted to watch from the crowd. It was a wise decision. Not only was Pulp on fine musical form, but frontman Jarvis Cocker was clearly out to enjoy the occasion.

The gig began with *The Fear*, after which the singer pretended to be scared by the size of the audience. His theatrics continued, despite a lacklustre reaction to a series of songs from current album *This Is Hardcore*, most notably the recent single *A Little Soul*. It was old favourites the fans wanted to hear. Pulp played *Do You Remember the First Time?* and *Sorted For Es and Wizz*, but largely stuck to new material. Eventually, perseverance paid off. *TV Movie*, *I'm a Man* and *Help the Aged*, all of which sounded at once majestic and beautifully fragile, won almost everyone over.

Without doubt, the highlight was a bold and brooding rendition of *This Is Hardcore*, which began the encore. Even *Common People*, played two songs later, couldn't match its epic appeal. The final song was *Something's Changed*. A track from *Different Class*, it aptly summed up Pulp's magnificent new sound.

LISA VERRICO

Blond dropper of bombshells

Standing 6ft 5in tall, with a blond American GI crop, Robbie Fulks looks like someone you would not wish to get on the wrong side of. With his left leg pumping the floor, and a spray of carelessly unclipped strings bobbing angrily round the headstock of his acoustic guitar, he sings and plays with the impatient, hyperactive energy of a punk. His babyish face contorted into a range of expressions, all of them manic.

If this does not sound like the standard description of a country singer, that is because Fulks, 35, from Chicago, is not standard in any department. The cover of his first album, *Country Love Songs*, released in 1996, portrays a typical rural couple standing on the porch of their log cabin, the only anomaly being that the man is attacking the woman with an axe. His second album, *South Mouth*, includes his characteristically forthright signature song, *Frankie's Town*, an autobiographical rant about the three years he spent trying, unsuccessfully, to make his mark in Nashville. "I couldn't get a break in Nashville. If I tried my whole life long."

But like Dale Watson and others among the so-called "all country" brigade, Fulks has located a rapidly growing audience for his fundamentalist take on a genre that many of his fiercest adherents feel has become too watered down to suit mass-market tastes.

COUNTRY

There was certainly nothing debated about his performance at the Borderline on Thursday as he and his whipcord-hard, three-piece band charged through an opening barrage of songs that ran into one another like cars in a motorway pile-up.

While his high, nasal voice fully described the part, the blunt honesty and cruel humour of songs such as *I Told Her Lies*, *She Took A Lot Of Pills (And Died)*, *God Isn't Real* and *The Scrupulous Song* ("a tune about hog butchery in Pennsylvania") could not have been further removed from familiar country platitudes.

You could imagine this kind of material getting a mixed reception in the rural Midwest, and some of it was uncomfortably bold stuff even for metropolitan London. But boy, it was real. There were also many gorgeous melodies such as the upbeat harmony chorus of *I Push Right Over*, and one or two searing ballads including *Barely Human*, an unbelievably anguished cry from the bottom of a bottle.

Fulks is clearly a major star in the making. Just remember to call him "Sir".

DAVID SINCLAIR

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Robbie Fox

Did Elgar write the first football chant? Richard Westwood-Brookes investigates

Great classical music and football make remarkably logical bedfellows. Both evoke the full raft of emotions - passion, elation, regret, despair, often abject despair. Both seek to entertain and are crafted with skill. And the first football, like the finest music, always requires that extra touch which only genius can inspire.

It should come as no great shock, therefore, to discover that England's greatest composer, Sir Edward Elgar, was also a fervent football fan. What may be a little more surprising is that he can be credited with writing what is undoubtedly the first ever football chant.

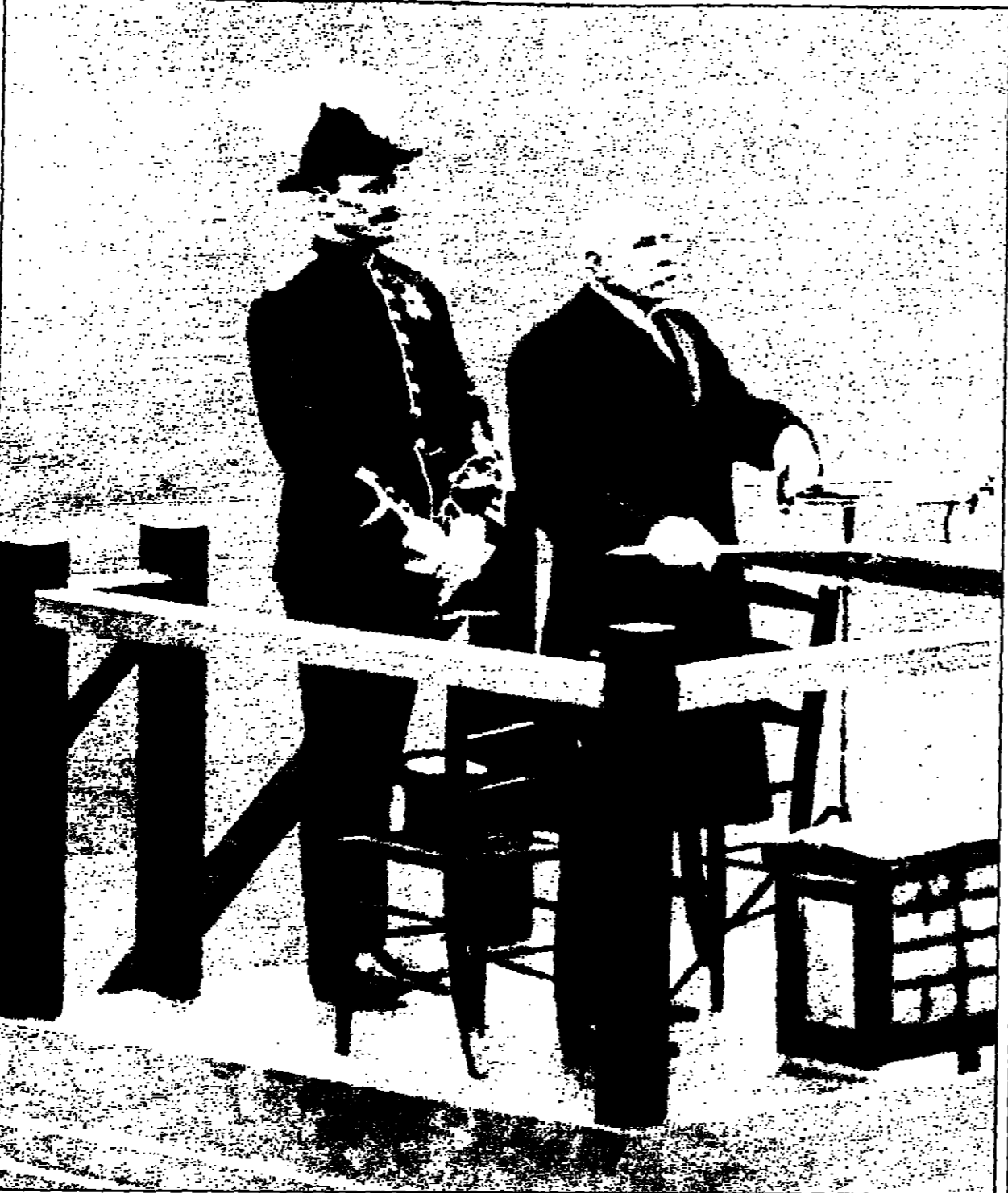
The quintessentially English composer such as Elgar would naturally support that most quintessentially English of clubs, Wolverhampton Wanderers - one of the founders of the Football League and a standard-bearer of English pride during the 1930s. Who could forget those Cold War nights, floodlit by the heroes of

the Midlands, when Honved and Moscow Spartak fell before the true grit of Billy Wright, Johnny Hancock, Roy Swinbourne and the rest? Now, in a year when English football could perhaps have done with the sort of genius which inspired Elgar's music and the unblemished gentlemanly conduct of Wright - never a red card for him - Elgar's association with Wolves is to be commemorated.

On Saturday a plaque made by another proud English name, the Coalbrookdale Company, makers of Abraham Darby's Iron bridge across the Severn, is to be unveiled near to the spot at Molineux, the club's home ground, where Elgar once stood to watch matches. And performing the ceremony will be one of the greatest of modern English stars, Wolves' president, Sir Jack Hayward.

In its own way, therefore, this simple unveiling of a plaque could also be seen as a kind of celebration of "Englishness" - how it used to be in the days of Empire and how it is today, in a multicultural present, epitomised by towns such as Wolverhampton, where the local football club is not only the focus for the community, but also a haven for so many dreams of future glory.

Just when Elgar himself became a fan of the club is not exactly certain. There are legends in the town that he cycled from his Worcester home to watch matches during the club's earliest days in the late 1870s, but there is no firm evidence of this. What we do know is that the moment he got off the train one day in December 1895 for a short stay with the Rector of Wolverhampton, the Rev Alfred Penny, he asked about the Wolves. The event was captured by



Sir Edward Elgar at Wembley Stadium in 1924 - not for a football match this time, but nevertheless conducting a choir

‘Music was the last thing he wanted to talk about. We talked about football’

Lion for Wolves

I think we talked about football. He wanted to know if I ever saw the Wolverhampton Wanderers play and when he heard that our house was a stone's throw from their ground he was quite excited. Elgar and Dora attended several matches together over the coming years. As she recalled, "it delighted him. The dense crowd flowing down the road like a river; the roar of welcome as the rival teams came on to the ground; the shouts of the men calling to their player friends by their Christian names - usually considerably shortened; the snatches 'AW!' at a mishap; and the deafening roar that greeted a goal." Elgar's hero was the half-back Billy Malpass, whose outstanding defending had captured the nation's hearts in 1893 when Wolves, very much the underdogs on the day, beat Everton 1-0 to lift the FA Cup for the first time. After one game in 1898 Dora sent the great composer a local newspaper report in which the correspondent used a characteristic expression in describing the culmination of a fine piece of tactical work by the Wolves player: "He banged the leather

for goal." Elgar was so taken with this curious phrase that he set it to music - thus undoubtedly producing the first fully documented football chant. People with stuffy attitudes might question a commemoration which links a composer of Elgar's stature with something like football. But Elgar would undoubtedly have felt extremely honoured by Wolves' gesture, and we have positive evidence of this from another area of his sporting interests. Just before he died in 1934, Worcester Races decided to name a Selling Plate after Elgar. He wrote to a friend: "I am overjoyed... it is fame at last and will remove the stigma of the symphonies, concertos, etc etc." Were he still with us, he would undoubtedly have considered having his name inscribed within the hallowed halls of the Molineux trophy room a rare honour.



Elgar's music and the first line of his manifold attempt at a football chant, inspired by his passion for the Wolves

In the broadest of humours

SATURDAY'S Prom performance of Verdi's comedy under John Eliot Gardiner was advertised as semi-staged, but the only "semi" element in Ian Judge's lively, not to say hyperactive, production was the absence of scenery. Even that was turned to advantage.

Steps through the orchestra led from a forestage thrust into the arena up to a rear-stage. The hall's own wide-field entrances and exits were used, and off-stage voices and - to especially magic effects - the horn to launch the finale under Herne's Oak were atmospherically spaced. Gardiner's Orchestra Revolucionnaire et Romantique, then, was right in the middle of things. There was some good-natured by-play between Falstaff and the conductor in the Honour Monologue, and the first oboe was on the receiving end of some of the Ford's dirty laundry; it was hard to tell from her body language whether she was amused or not. It's odd how when you see an orchestra you listen in a different way: the pleasure in hearing this miraculous score was doubled when the players, not to mention the conductor, were so patently reveling in its humanity and wit. The playing was ideally bright, incisive and pointed. Judge's production was on the broad side, more Ealing Comedy than Milanese - smart-bonneted Merry Wives scurrying around with designer shopping bags, courtesy Tim Goodchild - but so good-humoured as to disarm critic.

PROMS
Falstaff
Albert Hall/Radio 3

I wondered only about playing Ford as a dim-witted, Pooterish City gent with bowler, broily and briefcase clutched nervously over his private parts, while his Fomana disguise with specs and motor-ing cap turned him into Mr Toad. Ford's music suggests someone more dangerous, especially when sung with such virile tone and beguiling command of musical line as by Anthony Michaels-Moore. Casting the title role with the French baritone Jean-Philippe Lafont was, of course, the last word in authenticity (the first Falstaff was Victor Maurel) but this was slightly compromised by his languid Olivier Hardy as his role-model in the wounded-dignity stakes. His singing was at times a little untidy, but you would have to be the most determined sourpuss not to respond to his outside, enormously likeable performance. Everyone responded to Rebecca Evans's exquisite Nannetta, while Antonello Palombi, her Fenton, matched her in sweetness of tone and pliancy of phrase. Hillevi Martinpelto's secure, bright-toned singing as Alice gave constant delight, as did Sara Mingardo's Quickly.

RODNEY MILNES

This week in THE TIMES



DANCE
American choreographer Twyla Tharp brings her new group to the Barbican
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE
Willie Russell's Blood Brothers celebrates ten years in the West End
BIRTHDAY: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



PROMS
Singer Barbara Bonney joins the BBC National Orchestra of Wales
CONCERT: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



FILM
Eddie Murphy attends to a lame duck in the new version of Dr Dolittle
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: Kylie Minogue at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Wednesday

Fire in the feet

SOME people have been making a lot of money: the creator, the producer, the director, the choreographer and not least the star of Lord of the Dance, who all happen to be Michael Flatley. Yes, in 1996 the blond Irish-American dynamo tapped his hyperactive feet out of Riverdance and into his own pop-Gaelic dance spectacular.

His production, toured by three separate companies, has been to theatres and arenas all over the world. For its closing performance, subtitled Feet of Flames, it annexed part of Hyde Park on Saturday night for what was claimed to be the biggest dance event in Europe, with more than 100 performers watched by 25,000 ecstatic outdoor spectators. Even the weather was so stunned it forgot to rain. A stage, 20ft wide, was specially built, 25 cameras filmed the show; hyperbolic statistics battered my mind, just as the sound and visual effects of Lord of the Dance battered my senses. The huge production values of rock concerts are not normal fare for fragile ballet critics and I have to admit I found it pretty exciting. Jonathan Park's elaborately caged set assembled the dancers on two (and ultimately four) levels, while at either side stood a giant video screen transmitting an overview of the dance formations and close-ups of individual faces or footwork. Sound whooshed stereophonically from different angles; ant plumes of fire exploded on stage to make characters appear and disappear. It was like a live version of a sci-fi action film, all hard energy and special effects. The actual content, though, didn't match up. The machine precision of 100 massed dancers pounding out the same step at exactly the same time was initially exhilarating, but wore thin. The solos were monotonous; graceful skips and twiddles for Bernadette Flynn and Gillian Norris as the rivals for Flatley's affections; militaristic foot percussion for Daire Nolan as the evil Don Dorchu. Even Flatley's own solos, accompanied by taped admiring female screams as well as by Roman Hardiman's music, seemed to lack the dazzling power of his previous appearances, which at 40 is probably inevitable. The one new item was Flatley's Hispanic Feet of Flames solo. The way he suggested parallels between Spanish and Irish footbeats made me wonder why nobody has thought of presenting stadium flamenco. Now there's an idea.

DANCE
Lord of the Dance
Hyde Park

NADINE MEISNER

MCP PRESENTS Squeeze THEATRES, EXHIBITIONS, DANCE, OPERA & BALLET, THEATRES listings for November and December, including shows like 'The Real Inspector Hound', 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare', 'The Real Inspector Hound', 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare', etc.

To advertise in The Times theatre listings please call our entertainments team on: 0171 481 1982 or fax: 0171 481 9313.

Could Tiny get away with it now?

Lindsay Vincent on the new world of the buccaneers

Tycoons do not generally operate within parameters of morality...

Rowland was nifty with what is now known as the bung, but not as dumb or deviant as to rely on brown envelopes...

He was in every way the last of a dying breed

Each had a singular way of asserting themselves at a first meeting...

The Anglo-German Rowland also had chips on both shoulders. His style of greeting was to cause offence at the first opportunity...

Rowland would surely roar from the grave to have his name associated with such felons.

But all have exposed weaknesses in the system and, while it is the way of evolution that flaws and cracks will be ever present...

The Upper House's days may be numbered, but it is showing a lively new confidence

There's life in the old Lords yet

Last Wednesday I was one of the members of the House of Lords who voted, by 290 to 122, to reject the House of Commons amendment...

On the broad issues there are two opposed but legitimate arguments. Some people say that homosexuality is not the same thing as heterosexuality...

The reason I feel certain we were right to vote as we did is the Joe Ashton amendment in the House of Commons...

As Baroness Young told the House of Lords: "The Utting report, published last November, indicated that there are some 200,000 children living away from their parents."

ished last November, indicated that there are some 200,000 children living away from their parents...

is imperfect, and perhaps always will be imperfect, but it ought not to be removed until some better protection has been provided.

The House of Lords was saying to the House of Commons: "Legislate properly on this issue, after the working group has reported. Do not remove one protection at law for young males in care before replacing it with another."

William Rees-Mogg

ministers; many of us much prefer his style to the more bectoring manner of Lord Richard, the Leader of the House...

boys should be deprived of their very limited protection as well.

Paedophilia does not start or stop at the age of 16. Paedophile networks do exist in the caring professions; paedophiles are drawn towards the young, some of them to very young children, some of them to older children, some of them to boys and girls of 16.

One of the characteristics of the House of Lords is that our average age is higher than that of the House of Commons. They belong to the parents' generation: we, by and large, belong to that of the grandparents...

Both Houses are tolerant about differences of sexual temperament: indeed age merely gives one more experience of the variety of human sexual conduct...

The House of Lords accepted the need to put further protection for the young under authority in place before lowering the age of consent for boys. And the House of Commons amendment was defective because it was conceived simply in terms of equality of rights for teenagers...

The House of Lords is showing a new confidence. Nothing will now stop the axe falling on the hereditary peers. It was the fear of the axe which made the House of Lords hold back from revising the work of the Commons...

The oracle of Westminster

Even the great brain of Irvine needs help at times, says Peter Riddell

Tony Blair has a curious flaw as Prime Minister. He has little apparent interest in his Government's most distinctive and far-reaching programme...

In conversation, he is less interested in constitutional matters than, say, raising school standards, or government relations with business, or Europe. His advisers argue that the public cares about schools and the NHS but not about the constitution.



with the London mayor and local government reform; the Cabinet Office with freedom of information; the Leader of the Commons with its modernisation; while the Lord Chancellor and the Leader of the Lords uneasily share responsibility for the future of the Upper House...

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

row about the redecoration of his Westminster apartment. It is also hard for an un-elected Lord Chancellor to take a lead on changes intended to strengthen democracy, while other ministers are sensitive about encroachments into their areas.

leg. Removing the voting rights of hereditary peers is in many ways the least important issue as some constitutionally minded MPs like Tony Benn noted after Wednesday's vote against lowering the age of consent for homosexuals was carried by life peers.

This autumn will see both the report of the Jenkins commission on electing the Commons and the Government's options paper on the Lords. Ministers talk as if there was no link. But they are closely connected.

Lord Irvine's brain may ensure that reform Bills are consistent with each other in their drafting, but it has not produced a coherent overall strategy. This is not the same as a big bang comprehensive package.

Radical changes to the constitution are currently being introduced in a piecemeal, almost haphazard way. Senior officials complain of a "dumbing down" of political debate.

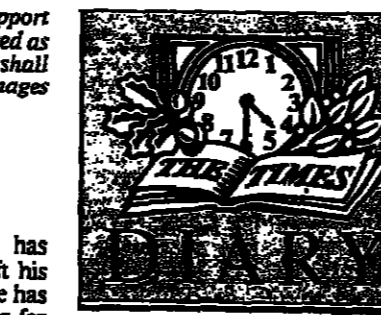
In the dark

SEARCHING for secrets is a tricky game, particularly if the subject of your investigations has won the sobriquet, "prince of darkness". Ask Paul Routledge, trying to research an unauthorised biography of Peter Mandelson, the gifted but mysterious minister...

intends to pursue both. A friend of Mandelson denies that anyone has been learnt on not to co-operate, but says others may have been discouraged from talking to Routledge after his Gordon Brown biography...

ered producers were, but to support Evi's campaign to be recognised as a character actress, the Diary shall refrain from showing future images until she is 70.

Money talks MALCOLM BRADBURY has done a Martin Amis and left his publisher for more money. He has abandoned Secker for Picador for his next novel Diderot at the Hermitage.



Fat chance EVA is not the only ambitious actor. Marlon Brando wants to play Winston Churchill.

Cop that A LABOUR MP had to suspend his party's faint scepticism of the police after he went to RAF Cosford as part of a new initiative...

Royal flush EVER keen on "Labour smugs Queen" yams, the Daily Mail grew excited over a report recommending that the monarchy should be modernised.

REMEMBER that cap, worn by William Hagger Well, it was not a crude attempt to pick up the Yardie vote, after all. "Anybody with as little hair as me wears some sort of cap when it is hot."

ANOUSKA HEMPEL (pictured), once a racey actress turned hotel magnate, is making another career change. Lady Weinberg, as she prefers to be called, has found her true vocation as an industrial engineer.

receive their astronomical bills.

COMPETITORS are bursting over the drawbridge at Diary Towers with entries for our "name doubles" competition.

Winston Churchill. The elephantine actor, who lives in Tahiti, has been attracted by the film's intention to create a psychologically brooding "Godfather"-style Churchill, who suffers from black dog and drinks too much champagne (true to life, then).

There has gone abroad, but Routledge



JASPER GERARD

مَكَانًا مِنَ الْأَمَلِ



COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE

July 25: The Prince of Wales today visited Gwynedd and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr Meurig Rees).

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning visited the Holyhead Community Centre, Anglesey, and met young people who have been helped by the Trust, together with supporters of the Centre and local volunteers.

The Prince of Wales afterwards visited the Holyhead Festival and launched the annual parade. His Royal Highness, Honorary Air Commodore, later visited Royal Air Force Valley, Anglesey, toured the Station and attended the annual Station Fire, met personnel and their families and presented the Prince of Wales Trophy to Flight Lieutenant Nigel Ingle.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon formally opened the re-instated seventeenth century panelled room at Gwynedd Castle, Llanrwst, and attended a recital of harp music.

His Royal Highness this evening gave a Dinner at Powis Castle, near Welshpool, Powys, for the Lord-Lieutenants of Wales and their wives.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 25: The Duke of York this evening departed Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America, for London.

KENSINGTON PALACE July 25: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester today visited Kiyomizdera Temple and Nijo Castle, Kyoto, Japan.

This evening Their Royal Highnesses attended the annual Summer River fireworks display, Tokyo.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 26: The Duke of Edinburgh today visited the Royal International Air Tattoo at Royal Air Force Fairford and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

ST JAMES'S PALACE July 26: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning visited a landscaping

project undertaken by the Young Farmers organisation at Berfew and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Powys (Mr Mervyn Bourdillon). His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Lunch at Penrice Castle, Pwllheli, to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Gower Society, dedicated to conserving the natural beauty and character of the Gower Peninsula, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Glamorgan (Mr Robert Hastie).

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, later attended a meeting at Swansea Police Station of local employers who support the Trust's Volunteers programme.

His Royal Highness afterwards attended the annual Sea Shanty Festival at Swansea Marina and met a number of participating local school children and their parents.

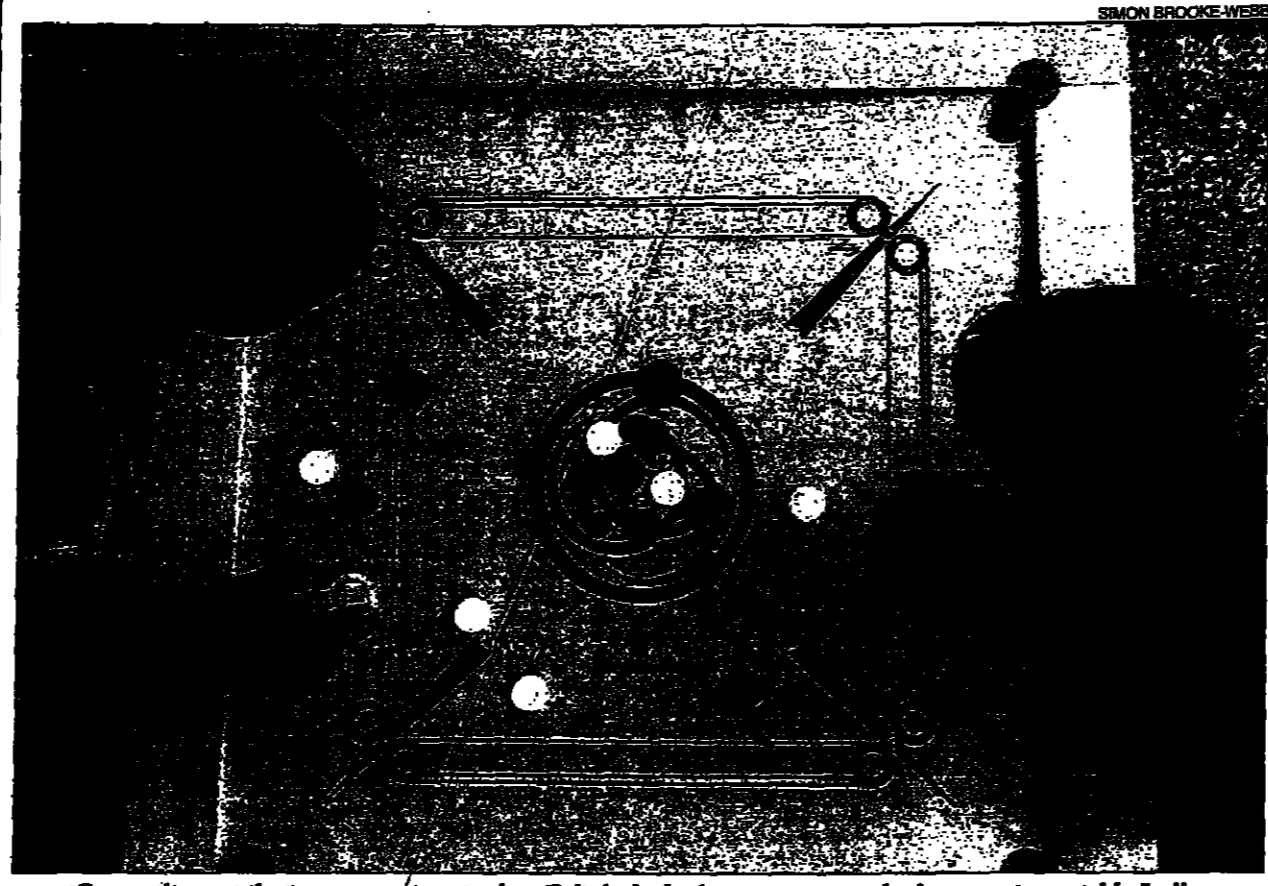
BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 26: The Duke of York this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Boston, United States of America. Commander Charlotte Manley RN was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE July 26: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were received this morning by The Emperor and The Empress of Japan at the Imperial Palace, Tokyo.

Later Their Royal Highnesses departed Tokyo for London. Miss Suzanne Marland and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

Today's royal engagements The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh will attend the evening performance of the Royal Tourneament at Epsom Court at 7.30.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, will visit the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's) at Robertson Barracks, Swanton Morley, Norfolk, at 12.00.



Competitors at the tournament yesterday. Britain is the largest carrom-playing country outside India

Finger-flickers knuckle down

AN ANCIENT Eastern board game which is becoming increasingly popular in this country held its largest national contest yesterday, in London.

Carrom, which originated in the Orient and travelled West with the Portuguese, has been played for at least 200 years, although similar games have been played for thousands of years under various names. The game has a growing following in Britain with at least 25,000 players.

However, the introduction of decorative one metre-square boards made from wood and costing about £300 has caused a 50 per cent increase in sales over the past year as the game has become the latest fad in certain circles.

Carrom is a finger-flicking board game which involves flicking nine white or black discs onto a red queen disc into the four corner pockets with a heavy plastic striker. Singles or doubles can play, striking from their own double

Victoria Fletcher reports on the growing popularity of an ancient board game

The oak and walnut boards, many of which have intricate designs, are in demand from mainly European countries, particularly Germany, where they are also used as tables and wall hangings.

Dan Robbins, a carpenter with the

Karum Company, the biggest European carrom board maker, said that its small Brighton workshop is finding it hard to cope with demand. "Suddenly requests from the US, Europe and even the UK has soared," he said.

The game is played throughout Asia, but because it attracts crowds it has often been banned from public places. The Taliban regime in Afghanistan recently outlawed carrom because it gathered people together and is not mentioned in the Koran.

Yesterday's competition in Covent Garden displayed the talents of the best carrom players in Britain, which is the largest carrom-playing country outside India.

For further information, contact the UK Carrom Club (01825 840574) or the UK Carrom Federation (01582 584702).

Royal Air Force College Cranwell

GENERAL Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the Defence Staff, accompanied by Lady Guthrie, visited Royal Air Force College Cranwell on Thursday, July 23, to review the Graduation of No 172 Initial Officer Training Course and present annual prizes on the occasion of the Queen's Review.

Acting Pilot Officers A M Berryman, A D Brasher, Operations Support - Fighter Control, Flying Officers J R Wells BEng, C J Wilson BSc, Pilot Officers M G Bulmer BA, R J Bush BSc, J Carrick BSc, A H Fisher LLB, J C S Parker BSc, A H Stewart BSc, D J Whiteley BSc PGCE, Acting Pilot Officer N Errington, Operations Support - Flight Operations, Flying Officers K M Brockless, R A Chapman, R L S Evans BSc, P GCE, D Lomas, K J McLaughlin, D O Smith BEng AMIEE, AMISM, C Wood BSc DipOE, Pilot Officer R E Cockram BSc, Operations Support - Regiment, Flying Officers T J Hollis, D J Walker, Pilot Officers D Nelson LLB DN, Acting Pilot Officers J P Cooper, J P McVish, J R Weekes, J M Weller, S G Williams, Engineer, Flying Officers J Higgins, I J Jones, A M Warner, Pilot Officers G A Heard BEng, G Irwin BEng, H I Wass BSc MSc, Supply Branch, Flying Officer G D Baskerville, Pilot Officer G M Sadler BA IEC, Administration Branch - Training, Flying Officers W A McGuinness BEng AMIEE, R B Brown BEng, O A Williams BA, Pilot Officer C J Tipping BSc PGDip(HRM), GradDip, Administration Branch - Secretariat, Flying Officer N Gabb BSc

Nature notes

The barley is being cut, and on some farms the barley stubble is already being ploughed in. Herring gulls, black-headed gulls and a few lesser black-backed gulls come to feed on the newly-turned furrows, their white plumage gleaming against the dark earth. Rooks gather in large flocks on the yellow stubble, then fly across to the ploughland. The Black-headed gull John's wort are very common this year: the dull gold flowers of feebane are just opening. Butterflies that came out in the sun at the weekend included peacocks, gatekeepers, chocolate-brown ringlets and the ragged-looking comma butterfly. DJM

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DEATHS BARLOW R.G.N. Civil Engineer died suddenly and peacefully on 19th July at St Anne's Hospital, Gwynedd, at 84. Buried at St Anne's Church, Gwynedd. Family flowers only. Enquiries to 01893 581323

DEATHS O'CONNOR - Anthony Michael (Tony) peacefully at home with his wife on 23rd July 1998. Buried at St Anne's Church, Gwynedd. Family flowers only. Enquiries to 01893 581323

DEATHS MANNING - Joan Angela, Formerly Copman (nee George), Bristow and Crickwall, died peacefully at home on 23rd July 1998. Buried at St Anne's Church, Gwynedd. Family flowers only. Enquiries to 01893 581323

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MARRIAGES MILTON - Mr M J Milson and Miss K G Gibson. The marriage took place on 23rd July 1998 at St Andrew's Church, Gwynedd. Family flowers only. Enquiries to 01893 581323

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'THE TIMES' and other illegible text.

NEWS

Ten ministers face the Blair axe

Tony Blair will today appoint Peter Mandelson, his close friend and confidant, to the Cabinet and challenge him to show that he can be a mainstream politician by running a leading Whitehall department.

Foreign Office faces Cook shake-up

The official report into the Arms-for-Africa affair, which will be published today, will be strongly critical of the breakdown in communications between diplomats and ministers in the Foreign Office which led to a sale of weapons to Sierra Leone in breach of a United Nations embargo.

Rowland was in coma

Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the business tycoon and former owner of The Observer who died at the weekend, had been in a coma for more than a week.

Gay sex pledge

Jack Straw will attempt to head off a Labour backbench revolt by promising legislation within 12 months to lower the age of consent for gay sex to 16.

Full of fight

When Dad's Army was first screened, an audience survey gave it little chance of survival. Thirty years on, the Home Guard platoon is holding its own in the ratings war.

Bogus marriages

Registrars will be obliged to pass on suspicions about bogus marriages under tough reforms to the asylum and immigration system being announced today.

Turner attack

A leading art college head attacked "the Turner Prize syndrome", dismissing the brick walls and bottled body fluids promoted as works of art as the emperor's clothes.

RUC clampdown

Orangermen - and members of exclusively Catholic organisations - may be banned from joining the RUC if the Government accepts a committee's recommendations.

Second Blériot ends up in the drink

Louis Blériot's attempt to re-enact the inaugural cross-Channel flight of his grandfather and namesake, the great French aviator, ended in damp humiliation. His flimsy Type XI plane - bought from the Shuttleworth air museum in Bedfordshire 20 years ago - got only a few hundred yards before it splash-landed in a French lake.

Nurse suspended

A hospital has suspended the male nurse at the centre of an investigation into five suspicious deaths and an alleged indecent assault.

Jail intelligence

Prisoners have helped police to increase crime solving and prevention thanks to an overhaul of the handling of intelligence from prisoners.

33,000-volt shock

A man is critically ill with 60 per cent burns after a 33,000-volt electric shock left him suspended from a pylon for 30 minutes by a friend's grip on his belt.

Missile watch

After secret London talks, Israel and Britain agreed a special security co-operation deal to monitor Middle East proliferation of ballistic missiles.

KLA squeezed

Serbian police, with Yugoslav Army help, made breakthroughs against the Kosovo Liberation Army, freeing sections of road and squeezing the guerrillas into a tighter zone.

Clinton threat

White House lawyers are trying to agree a deal with Kenneth Starr to save President Clinton from being the first incumbent President to testify before a federal grand jury in a criminal investigation.



More than 1,000 Cornish Solidarity members highlighted the county's economic plight by blocking the Tamar Bridge as fishing craft sounding hooters went underneath. Other 60-second symbolic roadblocks took place at Lammeston, Gunnislake and Bude

British Telecom: Shares in BT are set to open sharply higher today after the company revealed details of a £6 billion joint venture with AT&T of the US.

Hallifax: Pro-mutuality campaigners pledged to force the bank to increase its £780 million bid for Birmingham Midshires building society ahead of its interim results this week.

Self assessment: The Inland Revenue has been inundated with appeals against the £100 penalty fines it imposes for the late filing of tax returns under the new self-assessment system.

Halttrack: A consultation document by the Rail Regulator will contain radical proposals for a shake-up of the pricing regime.

Nature and nurture: A leading geneticist believes the environment is being neglected in the great gene hunt.

Chemical Lego: Scientists studying the humble squash beetle have discovered that it has a chemical arms factory on hand. Drug advances could follow.

Would you wear it? Latest haute couture fashions on French catwalks dazzle, but is there anything people would wear, asks Grace Bradberry.

Schooled uniform: Regulation tags will delight most parents, writes Valerie Grove.

Alternative animals: An increasing number of vets are using homeopathic remedies.

Happier circumstances: Last time the actor Stacy Keach was in Britain, he was in jail. Now he is starring in the West End hit play, Art, part of an all-American cast taking over this week.

Party mood: Jarvis Cocker was clearly determined to enjoy himself when Pulp took centre-stage at Finsbury Park festival.

Secret obsession: England's greatest composer, Sir Edward Elgar, was a fervent football fan and can take the credit for writing what is undoubtedly the first football chant.

Dancing farewell: Michael Flatley says goodbye to his spectacular Irish dance extravaganza Lord of the Dance with a special show in Hyde Park.

Cricket: England need another 139 runs today to beat South Africa and level the Test series at 1-1 with one match to play.

Golf: Stephen Leaney captured his second European Tour title of the year after holding off a challenge from Darren Clarke to win the Dutch Open.

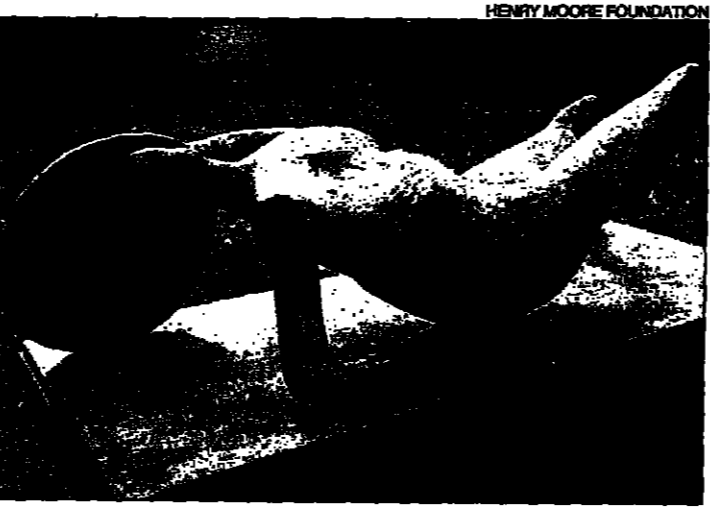
Motor sport: Mika Hakkinen extended his lead in the drivers' championship to eight points after winning the Austrian Grand Prix at Zeltweg.

Football: Newcastle United are to continue their team rebuilding programme by signing Dietmar Hamann, the Germany utility player.

Rugby union: Nine French clubs have withdrawn from this season's European Cup competition, opening the way for an alternative tournament against the leading English teams.

Rugby league: The ambitious plan to take Super League matches "on tour" around England and Wales has met with an encouraging, if unspectacular, public response.

18, 25, 36, 38, 43, 44. Bonus: 19. Four ticketholders shared the jackpot, each winning £2,016,209. 17 won £145,969 for five balls and the bonus; 781 won £1,985 for five balls; 50,052 won £68 for four.



HENRY MOORE FOUNDATION

TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

ARTS Richard Cork's verdict on the big Henry Moore debate

BODY AND MIND How do hospital staff view the promise of a £21 billion NHS handout?

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,854

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for words. The grid is partially filled with letters.

- ACROSS 1 Friend in French department - Hannah, for one (10). 6 Bread that's sensibly used (4). 10 One of a pack returning to hunt rodents (5). 11 Foet making relative gain always (9). 12 Money administrator at home in more ornate surroundings (9). 13 Colour used in art, in general (5). 14 Rest in particular song Schubert wrote first (3-4). 15 Public address has girl in agitated state (7). 17 The accused pair one located, protected by religious sect (7). 19 Mob he disturbed, taking road back to old country (7). 21 Soundly evaluate theatrical entertainment (5). 23 Arising from king and French ruler intervening (9).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,853 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather: All regions 0330 444 010. Includes sections for Weather by Fax, World City Weather, and Motoring.

Car reports by fax. Includes details for various car models and their specifications.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Encourages recycling of newspapers and provides contact information for WPA.

General weather forecast for the UK. Includes details for Scotland, Northern Ireland, and various regions of England and Wales.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloud; d=dizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fog; g=gale; h=halt; r=rain; sh=showers; st=stet; sn=snow; sp=spray; t=thunder.

Table of newspaper circulation figures for various titles across different regions.

Table of weather forecasts for various cities and regions, including temperature, wind, and precipitation.

Weather map showing high and low pressure systems, fronts, and wind directions across the UK and surrounding areas.

Changes to chart below from noon: low A will run NE, deepening slightly, low B will drift NW, merging with low A; low C will run NE and deepen; low D will change little.

Table of today's weather forecasts for various cities, including temperature, wind, and cloud cover.

Table of highest and lowest temperatures for various cities, along with wind speeds and directions.

Travel Insurance advertisement from £49.95 a year. Includes contact information for WPA and a toll-free number 0800 700 737.

هكذا من الأصيل

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

Sealed with a kiss
Regal victory for Swain and Dettori at Ascot
PAGES 36, 37

Silver chargers
Hakkinen and Coulthard power home in Austria
PAGE 27

PLUS
What does the final week hold for the Tour de France?
PAGE 32

Rough riders
The thrills and spills of whitewater rafting
PAGE 38



TIMES SPORT

14 PAGES

MONDAY JULY 27 1998

ENGLAND FEND OFF DONALD IN QUEST TO LEVEL SERIES



Donald voices his frustration after Boucher had dropped Hussain behind the wicket, a crucial incident on an enthralling fourth day that signalled a sustained spell of hostility from the South Africa fast bowler

Atherton opens the door

TRENT BRIDGE (fourth day of five): England, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 139 runs to beat South Africa

ALREADY this has been the Test match that the summer needed — taut, raw, edge-of-the-seat cricket compelling the attention of a nation and earning the gratitude of a troubled game. For England, though, there can now be no consolation in gallant failure and, amid the promised high drama of the final act today, they must complete victory to keep this series alive.

It is a simple, beguiling equation. Unless cruel weather aborts the challenge, England require a further 139 runs to level the Cornhill series with a game to play. South Africa need nine wickets to win it outright. For English cricket and its public perception, there is a gaping canyon of difference and, as usual in such situations, Michael Atherton is the key figure.

For more than three days, England were chasing this fourth Test, always second-favourites, always likely to end up ruing the decision to bowl first. Then, yesterday, they put together bowling and batting of disciplined purpose in a performance of rare and timely excellence.

Angus Fraser took five wickets for the second time in a game from which he was almost omitted and then, in the gathering gloom of evening, Atherton rose once more to the type of assignment that inspires him, batting with a single-minded obstinacy to which the South Africans are reluctantly accustomed.

The game is far from over. To put the target of 247 into context, England have only five times made as many to win a Test match and the one occasion they achieved it on home soil was 96 years ago. Their recent record is littered with too many spectacular collapses for confidence and, to win here, they must first

subdue Allan Donald. England defied him last evening, though not without moments of heart-stopping difficulty.

Indeed, after Atherton, on 71, was reprieved by Steve Dunne when the entire visiting team believed that he had gloved a short ball to the wicketkeeper, Donald was sufficiently enraged to bowl his most ferocious spell of the summer and punctuate it by telling Atherton at regular intervals just what he thought of him.

This was a white-knuckled contest, confrontational but never offensive, between a supreme fast bowler and one of the few batsmen in the world one would back to survive him. It was the essence of Test cricket and it deserved a full house to appreciate it rather than the rows of empty seats.

More days like this are the one sure cure for cricket's problems. From its outset,

there was a sense that it might be the crucial day of the summer, from which England would be deemed either resurgent or ruined. For once, under such critical pressure, they responded as a team.

Hansie Cronje and Daryll Cullinan had rebuilt the South Africa second innings from 21 for three, but they could add only another 27 yesterday before Cullinan clipped Fraser to square leg.

England now benefited from the type of injustice that will invariably occur in the tension of such a game. Jonty Rhodes was given out, by Mervyn Kitchen, to a ball from Dominic Cork that brushed his back pad rather than his bat on its path down the leg side to Alec Stewart.

Fraser, settled into his best rhythm, had Cronje edging inches short of second slip before Cork disposed of Shaun Pollock with a wide outswinger. England had taken

another clutch of wickets, three for 17, and were into the tail with a deficit of only 174.

They know of old to expect resistance somewhere in the lower order and it came now from Mark Boucher, playing the dominant role in a seventh-wicket stand of 53.

Cronje, becalmed either side of lunch, was almost caught at point by Hussain — who

Day of drama 1
Michael Henderson 29

indicated his uncertainty that the ball had carried — before frustration drove him to chase another of Cork's away-swingers. By then, he had batted for nine hours in the game and made 193 runs; if South Africa win, it will be their captain that they must thank.

Once this pair were divided, England swept through the half-opened door. The last four wickets fell for 19 and three of them went to the

deserving Fraser, whose rigid adherence to an offside line fully merited match figures of ten for 122.

Half the day remained when England set out to redeem their year and the attempt almost began in farce and calamity. Atherton, still to score, played Donald to point and found Butcher bearing down on him as fast as Rhodes was bearing down on the ball. He staggered to the other end and dived into the dirt of the crease. Had he not made it, the evening may have taken a very different course.

Atherton might have been leg-before to Donald when on seven and, on the same score, was rightly spared by umpire Dunne when a Pollock bouncer took his shoulder, rather than his glove, on the way to second slip.

He lost Butcher, who had once more driven with fluency and precision, to a beauty from Pollock, but then proceeded relatively serenely with Hussain until Donald, bowling round the wicket, registered a disabled catch at the disallowed catch.

The remains of the day will have embedded themselves on the memory of all who watched. Donald's next ball was inside-edged for four and he followed it with a series of withering short balls and wide-eyed stares, to which Atherton responded with deadpan calm.

It was a stirring piece of bowling, but it went unwarded. Atherton was lucky to survive one top-edged hook over square leg, but Donald was almost inconsolable when he found Hussain's edge and Boucher put down a straightforward chance. It was one last twist on a day when England had the breaks and largely deserved them.

SCOREBOARD FROM TRENT BRIDGE

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 374 (N J Cronje 126, S M Pollock 50, A R C Fraser 5 for 80, D Gough 4 for 116)

ENGLAND: First Innings

M A Butcher bow b Donald 75 (197min, 141 balls, 12 fours)

M A Atherton c Boucher b Donald 56 (190min, 156 balls, 7 fours)

N Hussain bow b Elworthy 22 (87min, 52 balls, 4 fours)

*A J Stewart c Kitchen b Kallis 19 (87min, 42 balls, 4 fours)

M R Rampersad not out 67 (277min, 206 balls, 7 fours)

I D R Sulembury b Donald 23 (104min, 77 balls, 2 fours)

G A Hick b Donald 16 (82min, 17 balls, 1 four)

A Flintoff c Boucher b Kallis 17 (48min, 37 balls, 3 fours)

D Gough c Boucher b Pollock 6 (37min, 29 balls, 1 four)

D Cronje c Boucher b Donald 2 (18min, 13 balls)

A R C Fraser bow b Pollock 7 (20min, 14 balls, 1 four)

Extras (5 7, 10 13, w 1, nb 13) 34

Total (127.5 overs, 533min) 336

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-145 (Butcher 74), 2-150 (Hussain 4), 3-191 (Hussain 18), 4-189 (Rampersad 4), 5-244 (Rampersad 21), 6-254 (Rampersad 23), 7-286 (Rampersad 39), 8-322 (Rampersad 46), 9-337 (Rampersad 46)

BOWLING: Donald 33-8-109-6 (16 fours, 3-1-0, 5-0-0, 5-2-32, 6-3-18, 3-0-7, 3-1-0, 3-0-15-1); Pollock 35-5-12-7 (no 9, 4-2-10-0, 5-3-7-0, 4-0-14-0, 4-0-14-0, 5-2-1-0, 9-4-16-0, 6-5-13-2); Elworthy 22-8-41-1 (nb 2, 5 fours, 2-1-4-0, 5-1-15-0, 10-0-15-1, 1-1-0-0, 3-0-9-0); Kallis 29-4-80-2 (nb 3, w 1, 9 fours, 7-2-17-0, 8-4-15-1, 6-5-10-0, 2-0-7-0, 4-1-10-1, 1-0-4-0); Adams 8-0-31-0 (nb 1, 3 fours, 8-1-31-0, 1-1-0-0)

SCORING NOTES: Third day: Second new ball taken at 11:37am (England 218-4 after 81.3 overs); Lunch: 259-6 (101 overs, 416min; Rampersad 28, Flintoff 0). All out at 3:37pm — tea taken

SOUTH AFRICA: Second Innings

G Watson bow b Fraser 6 (53min, 21 balls)

G F J Liebenberg bow b Gough 0 (3min, 4 balls)

J H Kallis c Stewart b Cork 11 (40min, 20 balls, 2 fours)

D J Cullinan c Rampersad b Fraser 55 (153min, 105 balls, 8 fours)

*W J Cronje c Stewart b Cork 67 (251min, 188 balls, 8 fours)

J N Rhodes c Stewart b Cork 2 (11min, 6 balls)

S M Pollock c Stewart b Cork 7 (27min, 50 balls, 4 fours)

M V Boucher c Kallis b Fraser 35 (69min, 63 balls, 5 fours)

S Elworthy bow b Fraser 10 (17min, 19 balls, 1 four)

A A Donald not out 7 (16min, 4 balls, 1 four)

P R Adams c Stewart b Fraser 1 (9min, 7 balls)

Extras (0 1, 0 4, w 1) 6

Total (75.3 overs, 333min) 208

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3 (Adams 3), 2-17 (Rhodes 6), 3-21 (Cullinan 6), 4-119 (Cronje 43), 5-122 (Cronje 43), 6-136 (Cronje 50), 7-189 (Boucher 35), 8-188 (Elworthy 3), 9-203 (Donald 8)

BOWLING: Gough 16-4-26-1 (nb 1, w 1; 8 fours, 5-2-9-1, 1-5-10-0, 4-1-16-0, 2-0-5-0; Fraser 25-5-25-0 (8 fours, 6-2-20-1, 1-4-22-1, 5-3-23-3); Cork 20-4-80-4 (8 fours, 5-1-23-1, 8-1-19-0, 7-5-18-1); Flintoff 8-1-16-0 (2 fours, 4-0-12-0, 2-1-4-0); Sulembury 5-2-9-0 (3-3-0, 2-0-8-0)

SCORING NOTES: Third day: Stumps: 92-3 (53 overs, 147min; Cullinan 41, Cronje 32). Fourth day: Lunch: 189-6 (82 overs, 270min; Cronje 62, Boucher 20). All out at 2:42pm

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Draw puts added pressure on the champion

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ARAN WAINWRIGHT opens his defence of the English Amateur Championship...

His first-round opponent in the second quarter of the draw is Craig Huntphrey...

Mark Hilton, from Sussex, who reached the semi-finals of the Amateur Championship at Muirfield...

Scott Godfrey, who won the Carris Trophy last week, and his elder brother, Kristian...

It will be the fifth time that Woodhall Spa has hosted the championship...

Ray Floyd bogeyed two of the last five holes but still had a round of 73...

Bobby Verwey, of South Africa, had a final round of 68 to secure a two-shot victory...

Mental toughness of Australian gets him through emotional afternoon

Leaney wards off all challengers

FROM MEL WEBB IN HILVERSUM

STEPHEN LEANEY produced every ounce of his navigational skills to sail to victory in the TNT Dutch Open yesterday...

Leaney, 29, took the Moroccan Open by eight strokes in March, which remains the largest winning margin on the European Tour...

The expected challenge of Lee Westwood, who has played as well as anybody in world golf...

Westwood, who finished in a tie for third place with Nick Price, two strokes behind the winner...

With Westwood having to accept a place for a change, in the shadows, the main British competition to Leaney came from Darren Clarke...

Ray Floyd bogeyed two of the last five holes but still had a round of 73...

Bobby Verwey, of South Africa, had a final round of 68 to secure a two-shot victory...



Leaney shows his delight after capturing his second trophy of the season, courtesy of a final-round 67, in the TNT Dutch Open yesterday

difference as he finished one stroke behind the winner. The headiest moment of Clarke's round was his eagle three at the par-five 4th...

won him £133,330. The Western Australian is not one of nature's extroverts, but it would be a gross error to mistake his quiet exterior for a lack of competitive juices...

itor on the inside," he said. "I try not to get up and down - over the years I've learnt to try to stay on the same level."

family saloon waiting to be passed by some exotic sporting machinery on his tail, but if he spent the afternoon looking in his rear-view mirror...

SCORES FROM HILVERSUM

Table with multiple columns listing golfers' names and scores for various rounds. Includes sub-sections for 'LEADING FINAL SCORES' and 'SCORERS'.

Eagle on the 15th breaks Davies's drought

LAURA DAVIES, of Great Britain, ended one of the bleakest runs of her career with victory in the Chrysler Open at Sjogarde...

With a final round of 70, three under par, in the tough, windy conditions...

Another Briton, Trish Johnson, who was second in the Austrian Open last week, also shot 70...

Davies, who has slipped from No 1 to No 5 in the world rankings over the past couple of seasons...

It is also my first win in Sweden - that makes it very special," she said.

On Tuesday, she heads to Canada for the final major of the women's season...

Johnson has decided to miss the du Maurier in Europe for the German Open...

RUGBY LEAGUE: TRAVELLING SHOW TESTS POPULARITY IN WALES

Castleford take to life on the road as Cardiff states its case

Castleford Tigers..... 23 Warrington Wolves..... 16

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE crowd of 4,437 hemmed in on one side of Cardiff Arms Park to see Castleford Tigers beat Warrington Wolves...

Gateshead, the front-runners, and Swansea. Mike Nicholas, the Wales team manager, fears the worst...

Roadshow mission 35

head compare to a rugby-mad area like South Wales?" Maurice Lindsay, the managing director of Super League Europe...

rugby union acting chief executive, said: "We are committed to getting in at the right level and this being a long-term success...

As if to emphasise the Welsh connection, Lee Briers, for Warrington, and Jason Critchley, for Castleford, who both figured in the Wales side beaten by Emerging England...

Warrington meandered for much of the time, even though they led twice in the second half after tries by Steve McCurrie and Chris Rudd...

dropped goal attempt rebound off the crossbar into the arms of Mike Wainwright, who dispatched Gary Chambers...

Bradford Bulls have agreed a £140,000 deal with Salford Reds for Nathan McAvey...



Orr, of Castleford, is stopped in his tracks by the tackles of Farrar and Tuntua, right, during Tigers' victory over Warrington Wolves at Cardiff Arms Park

GOLF

Pepper in charge as Classic heats up

Pepper has 14 career LPGA wins, but none since the 1996 LPGA Championship...

Pepper started her bogey-free round by sinking short of birdie on the first two holes, the 5th and 6th...

Golden, who has not won since joining the LPGA Tour in 1992, sank birdie putts on the 15th and 16th...

CLUB GOLF LOMBARD TROPHY UPDATE

Now in its fourth year, it's already the biggest and best Pro Am golfing event in Europe. In 1998 over 100,000 club golfers from 1,200 clubs...

North Wales/Cheshire Final Shigley Hill professional Glenville Ogden...

chipping in for a birdie at the 17th, for a five-under-par 67...



South Wales Final An even closer finish a week later at Newport gave victory to St. Mary's (South Glamorgan)...

splendid round with an eagle 3 at the 10th and 11th holes...

South West Final An eagle at the second set Dainton Park, near Torquay...

His amateur partner, Nick Bury (4 handicap) contributed net birdies at the eighth, 10th and 13th...

Fletcher the difference as Rovers lead title chase

HULL Kingston Rovers retained top place in the first division last night, but only just...

Wakefield are breathing down the leaders' necks despite being reduced to 12 men after only ten minutes...

Garen Casey kicked his fourth goal. A try by Johan Windley was too late for the Hawks...

Wakenfield are breathing down the leaders' necks despite being reduced to 12 men after only ten minutes...

His kicking proved decisive for both sides scored three tries, with Sean Casey, the loose forward, grabbing a hat-trick...

Leigh, the bottom club, ended their 11-match losing streak with a 14-12 win over Whitehaven...

Ross gave the home side a glimmer of hope with a 65th-minute try, but Matt Fuller soon cancelled that out and Swinton's other points came

Fletcher the difference as Rovers lead title chase

Pepper started her bogey-free round by sinking short of birdie on the first two holes, the 5th and 6th...

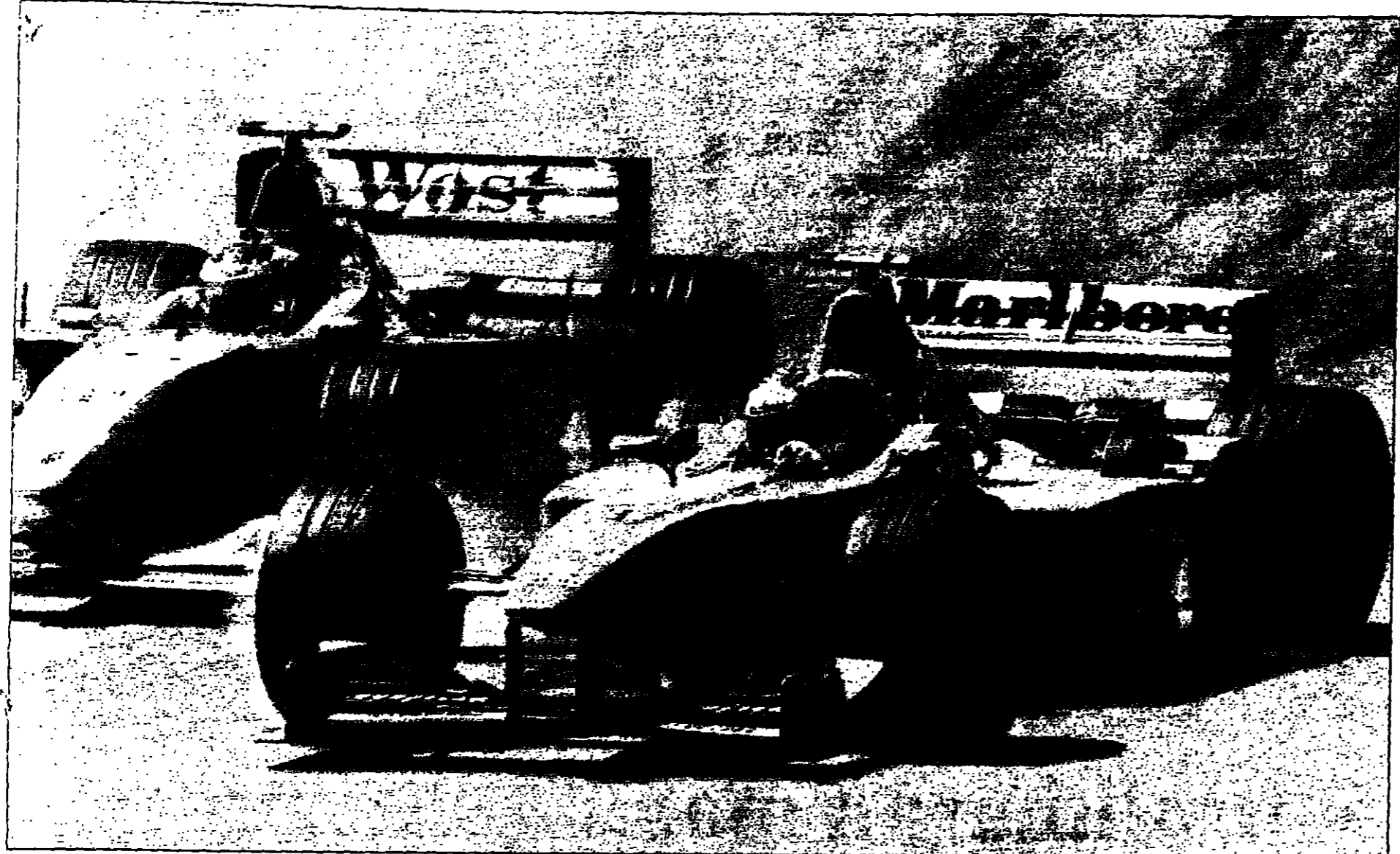
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MONDAY JULY 27 1998

Coulthard battles through the field to claim a 'fairytale' second place



Schumacher, right, tries to force his way round the outside of Hakkinen but the Finn holds the racing line to see off the German's challenge at the Austrian Grand Prix yesterday

Hakkinen leads McLaren charge

FROM KEVIN EASON IN ZELTWEG

THIS was the day for strong men resilient enough to withstand events that can shatter dreams and shorten careers. When the test came at the Austrian Grand Prix yesterday, Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard, of the McLaren team, were more than ready. They produced performances that broke the spirits of Michael Schumacher, who finished third, with Eddie Irvine fourth.

The manoeuvre that took Schumacher past his teammate looked stage-managed and Ron Dennis, the McLaren Mercedes team director, called it a charade. The Ferrari team was quick to claim that Irvine had brake problems, but others concluded that the "problems" were the consequence of team orders to ensure as many points as possible for the German former champion.

On the day that Irvine's place for next year at Ferrari was confirmed, the Irishman looked faintly embarrassed when asked to explain his sudden loss of speed once Schumacher was on his tail. Ferrari's shenanigans were a distraction, though, from a race that had drawn the best out of McLaren.

THE RACE FOR THE DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Driver	Austria	Spain	Germany	France	Great Britain	Italy	USA	Belgium	Japan	Total points
1. Hakkinen	10	10	6	10	10	4	6	10		66
2. M Schumacher	4	10	6	4	10	10	4	10		56
3. Coulthard	6	4	10	6	4	1	4	6		38
4. Irvine	3	4	4	4	4	4	6	4		32
5. Wurz		3	3	3	4	3	2	3		27
6. Fisichella		1		3	1	2	3	2		15
7. Villeneuve	2		3	1	2	3		1		12
8. Frentzen	4	2		2						8
9. Barrichello			2	2						4
10. Alesi		2	1	2						3
11. Salo					3					3
12. R Schumacher						1	2			3
13. Herbert	1									1
14. Dietsch					1					1
15. Nagason						1				1

Hakkinen won the race with a drive of consummate skill and calm, resisting a series of attacks from Schumacher that would have frightened most drivers into a gravel trap. Yet Coulthard's second place perhaps merits greater acclaim, not just because he sliced his way through from last place but because of the circumstances in which he was forced to prove himself fit for Formula One.

The Scotsman came to Zeltweg haunted by the failures of the past four races and his problems seemed to have been compounded when he could qualify only fourteenth on the grid. Trouble seemed to have found him again at the second corner, when the Arrows of Pedro Diniz and Mika Salo outdied in front of him.

Coulthard stopped, only for Salo to spin his car to face the right way. For once, the fates were kind, though, for officials had brought out the safety car while Tora Takagi's stranded Tyrrell was cleared from the first bend, allowing Coulthard to dash to the pits for a new nose cone and come back out in nineteenth — last — place.

Then he started a drive that Dennis described as "a fairytale, his best race in Formula One". He reeled in car after car, sweeping past top drivers — Jacques Villeneuve, Johnny Herbert, Jean Alesi, Damon Hill and Ralf Schumacher among them.

"After all the criticism, it was a fantastic performance," Norbert Haug, head of Mercedes Motorsport, said. "He was really down, but I told him he could do it and he really drove incredibly."

Nobody was more taken aback than Hakkinen when he discovered that he was being chased by his teammate. "It was unbelievable," he said. "David started fourteenth on the grid and here he is right behind me."

The odds had been stacked against the McLaren's, with

today, Alesi pulled slightly ahead into a right-hander and claimed the racing line, forcing the Benetton up on to the kerb, with Fisichella clearly unable to brake in time.

They collided and left Zeltweg with no reward for their qualifying performance. The attrition meant that Irvine found himself second, but Coulthard soon ran him down too, claiming the fastest lap on his way.

Now it was Schumacher's turn to struggle through the field, though from tenth place. For four laps, his only obstacle was his younger brother, Ralf, who had his Jordan in fourth place. Ralf, only 23, refused to defer until he was overwhelmed by the Ferrari's superior performance.

Once on his way, Schumacher simply had to catch Irvine, who was losing two seconds a lap to his teammate. But the effort was too late anyway, with the McLaren's on their way to victory celebrations that they have dreamed about for the past two months.

Hakkinen now has a clear world championship lead over Schumacher and Coulthard is deservedly back on track. The likeable Scot said last week that he wanted to drive with a smile on his face again; last night, his was the broadest grin in Austria.

Grid turns season on its head

FROM KEVIN EASON

RON DENNIS looked at his watch and then peered up at the black clouds rolling in from the mountains that surround the Zeltweg circuit. The McLaren Mercedes team weatherman told him to expect torrential rain at midday on Saturday, an hour before the start of qualifying, and, right on cue, the heavens opened. At that moment, the optimism that had filled the McLaren garage washed away with the rain that poured across the circuit.

The storm proved that Formula One is as much about clear thinking as driving and engineering. How else could you explain a starting grid yesterday that had a Benetton on pole with a Sauber alongside, as well as a Stewart-Ford and Arrows in their highest positions of the year on the

third row, ahead of both Williams, a Ferrari and a McLaren?

Too many teams misread the variations in Zeltweg's curious micro-climate. Weathermen promised a break in the rain and a fast-drying track, yet Damon Hill was second out on to a drenched

QUALIFYING

1. G. Fisichella (Benetton) 1:30.217
2. J. Alesi (Sauber) 1:30.217
3. M. Hakkinen (McLaren) 1:30.517
4. M. Schumacher (Mercedes) 1:30.561
5. R. Barrichello (Jordan) 1:31.032
6. M. Salo (Sauber) 1:31.032
7. J. Villeneuve (Williams) 1:31.032
8. R. Schumacher (Mercedes) 1:31.032
9. J. Herbert (Jordan) 1:31.032
10. D. Coulthard (McLaren) 1:32.298
11. J. Villeneuve (Williams) 1:32.298
12. J. Verstappen (Arrows) 1:32.298
13. P. Diniz (Arrows) 1:32.298
14. D. Coulthard (McLaren) 1:32.298
15. J. Herbert (Jordan) 1:32.298
16. J. Herbert (Jordan) 1:32.298
17. A. Wurz (Arrows) 1:32.298
18. J. Herbert (Jordan) 1:32.298
19. J. Herbert (Jordan) 1:32.298
20. J. Herbert (Jordan) 1:32.298
21. S. Nakano (Minardi) 1:34.052
22. R. Frenzen (Benetton) 1:34.910



Hakkinen reflects on an inspired drive to victory yesterday

Rydel maintains title lead

DESPITE failing to win either race at Snetterton yesterday, Rickard Rydel maintained his lead in the Auto Trader RAC British touring car championship. The Volvo driver from Sweden claimed fifth place in the sprint race — won by Anthony Reid in a Nissan — and was second to the Honda of James Thompson.

Rydel went to Snetterton with a 42-point lead over Alain Menu, the reigning champion, of Renault, and left the Norfolk track with an identical points advantage, albeit with Thompson now his closest challenger. In the manufacturers' title race, Nissan

has regained the advantage over Volvo, with Renault a close third.

The sprint race provided Reid with the opportunity to demonstrate his new-found consistency, the Nissan's excellent handling balance and the massive advantage that pole position provides at Snetterton, one of the trickiest circuits for overtaking on the Auto Trader BTCC calendar.

The Scot made an impeccable getaway as the man alongside him, Menu, spun when Menu was attempting to seize third place.

In the end, a change of position depended on one of the top three making an error, but each drove impeccably all the way to the chequered flag.

Auriol excels in the downpour

DIDIER AURIOL, of France, opened a 30-second lead in the New Zealand Rally yesterday to put himself within sight of his second victory of the year.

Auriol, who had led Carlos Sainz, his Toyota team-mate, by 2.2sec overnight, recorded the fastest time on five of the eight stages making up the second leg of the race. It gave him a 30.5sec advantage over the Spaniard on a day marred by bad weather. A torrential downpour caused two stages to be cancelled because of flooding.

Sainz, who trails Colin McRae, the world championship leader, by five points, was

left bemused at how his team-mate managed to establish such a commanding lead, especially as Auriol had to contend with a broken wheel on stages 12 and 13. "I can't pin down why Didier was able to be so much quicker than me," Sainz said. "I had no problems or any major difficulties."

Richard Burns, driving a Mitsubishi, moved into third place ahead of McRae after the Subaru driver spun on the twelfth stage at Ararua. McRae, who won the New Zealand Rally three years running between 1993 and

AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX RESULTS

1. Mika Hakkinen (Fin) McLaren-Mercedes 1hr 30min 44.085sec; 2. David Coulthard (GB) McLaren-Mercedes at 5.285sec; 3. Michael Schumacher (Ger) Ferrari at 39.093sec; 4. Eddie Irvine (Ire) Ferrari at 43.957sec; 5. Ralf Schumacher (Ger) Jordan-Mugen Honda at 50.655sec; 6. Jacques Villeneuve (Can) Williams-Mecumotec at 53.202sec; 7. Damon Hill (GB) Jordan-Mugen Honda at 1min 13.620sec; 8. Johnny Herbert (GB) Sauber-Petronas at 1.10sec; 9. Alexander Wurz (Austria) Benetton-Mecumotec at 1.10sec; 10. Jarno Trulli (Jpn) Prost-Peugeot at 1.10sec; 11. Shoji Nishino (Japan) Minardi-Ford at 1.10sec; 12. Ricardo Rosset (Br) Tyrrell-Ford at 2.10sec.

Did not start: 13. Jos Verstappen (Hol) Stewart 51 laps; 14. Esteban Tuero (Arg) Minardi 20 laps; 15. Giancarlo Fisichella (It) Benetton 21 laps; 16. Jean Alesi (Fr) Sauber 21 laps; 17. Heinz-Harald Frentzen (Ger) Williams 18 laps; 18. Rubens Barrichello (Br) Stewart 8 laps; 19. Pedro Diniz (Br) Arrows 3 laps; 20. Mika Salo (Fin) Arrows 3 laps; 21. Olivier Panis (Fr) Prost 0 laps; 22. Toranosuke Takagi (Japan) Tyrrell 0 laps.

Fastest lap: Coulthard 1min 12.878sec (ave 213.348mph)

THE RACES TO COME

August 2: Germany (Nurburgring)
August 23: Hungary (Hungaroring)
August 30: Belgium (Spa-Francorchamps)
September 13: Spain (Barcelona)
September 27: Luxembourg (Dorval)
November 1: Japan (Suzuka)

WEST McLAREN MERCEDES
Position: 1
Points: 102
1998 best: 1

SCUDERIA FERRARI MARLBORO
Position: 2
Points: 90
1998 best: 2

BENETTON FORMULA ONE
Position: 3
Points: 32
1998 best: 2

WINFIELD WILLIAMS
Position: 4
Points: 20
1998 best: 3

STEWART FORD
Position: 5
Points: 5
1998 best: 5

SAUBER PETRONAS
Position: 6
Points: 4
1998 best: 6

DANKA ARROWS
Position: 6
Points: 4
1998 best: 6

JORDAN MUGEN-HONDA
Position: 6
Points: 3
1998 best: 7

PROST PEUGEOT
Position: 6
Points: 3
1998 best: 5

TYRRELL FORD
Position: 6
Points: 3
1998 best: 11

MINARDI TEAM
Position: 6
Points: 3
1998 best: 7

Contentious decisions add spice on day of pure theatre in Test match arena

Gloves are off in the battle for supremacy

TRENT BRIDGE witnessed a session of play after tea last night that people will recall for years. This was Test cricket as theatre, as act of will, as life itself, with "all complexities of mire and blood".



At Trent Bridge

must have known the ball had flicked his glove, and he must have known that others knew, but he simply waited for the storm to subside.



Cork celebrates the dismissal of Rhodes as the fickle finger of Kitchen comes into play with South Africa striving to set an imposing target

concerned people down the years, it was agreed that "something had to be done". So unanimous was the condemnation and so powerfully were the views expressed that some umpires feel that it may be necessary to "name and shame" the worst offenders.

never really coincidental, the umpire pitched into the drama was Mervyn Kitchen, who was one of those prepared to speak publicly last week. Kitchen, after a pause for thought, to which he is fully entitled, gave out Kallis, caught at the wicket on Saturday night.

"This Test, which has hummed with debate, reached deafening proportions"

Holland maintain mastery in Europe

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN THE HAGUE

HOLLAND beat Denmark by five wickets with 7.3 overs to spare here on Saturday to win the European championship and confirm a superiority over their four rivals that had become apparent in the round-robin qualifying series.

The Dutch were aggressive throughout their five matches with both bat and ball and Tim de Leede, the captain, led by example in the final at Hague Cricket Club.

The continuation of a five-year sequence of wins saw Scotland pip Ireland by four wickets in the third-place play-off, but the surprise was a six-wicket defeat of a strong England ECB XI by Italy.

Essex slip to bottom rung of superstructure

By RICHARD HOBSON

OF ALL the competitions inflicted upon players and the public, the Super Cup lurks as the most spurious since the late, unlamented Refuge Assurance Cup. Widely derided on its unveiling as an amendment to recommendations by Lord MacLaurin, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, for the structure of the English game, it appears to be even more ridiculous now.

The top eight counties in the Britannic Assurance county championship this season will contest this limited-overs knockout competition next year. As everybody knows, the skills of the four-day and one-day games are quite different. Ludicrously but plausibly, the as-yet-unsponsored Super Cup will be contested without this summer's most successful one-day side.

When the matter was put to Paul Prichard, the Essex captain, immediately after his side won the Benson and Hedges Cup final two weeks ago, he seemed to be taken aback. He rejected the idea that a place in the Super Cup should be reserved for the winners of the limited-overs trophies, but his bemused manner left the impression that he had not given the matter a great deal of thought.

A look at the championship table today will give Prichard more cause for concern. Despite scoring the highest total of the match to beat Warwickshire by two wickets at

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMENTARY

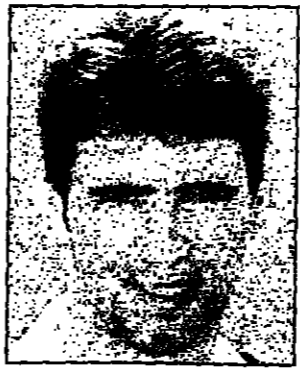
Edgbaston on Saturday, Essex slipped from seventeenth place to bottom. Northamptonshire climbed above them through earning a full 24 points against Derbyshire, while Essex took 20 from their success.

Nonetheless, victory came as something of a relief. It was only the second of the season, the first against Somerset, having been achieved in a rain-affected game with a first-innings forfeiture. Yet it will take more than this to appease a section of the county's membership, Peter Edwards, the Essex secretary and general manager, has received a number of letters regarding poor championship results.

A significant factor behind results is the way in which Stuart Law has chipped in rather than compiled big scores. Inhibited by a shoulder injury that has deteriorated to the point where he will undergo surgery tomorrow, he has made one first-class hundred and eight scores in the thirties and forties. It is not certain whether he will be re-engaged in 1999.

The fact that five of their youngsters were selected by England for the under-19 tour of South Africa last winter suggests that there is cause for optimism in the longer term. While Stephen Peters has played regularly, however, the other four have struggled to break through.

opening batsman, appeared next, he extended his career-best score to 61 against Warwickshire. Graham Napier, an all-rounder, and Jamie Grove, a fast bowler, have each played once and seem to be ranked behind 36-year-old Neil Williams. Jonathan Powell, the off-spin bowler, is restricted to playing as a batsman in the second XI because of back trouble. More encouraging is the fact that Danny Law, at 23, is beginning to realise the



Prichard: taken aback

talent that prompted Essex to sign him from Sussex. Whether Essex would have won on Saturday had Dougie Brown been fit to bowl is a matter for conjecture. The absence of the all-rounder with a broken finger was clearly lost on the element of the home crowd, who booed Warwickshire at the end.

Yet however many times Warwickshire shuffle the top order, runs remain hard to come by, not least from Brian Lara. And why Neil Smith, the scorer of more than 600 runs, is batting at No 9 or No 10 is hard to fathom.

The Roses aspirants to the title both lost ground. Yorkshire, needing 321 from 79 overs to beat Middlesex at Lord's, finished 36 runs short with the ninth-wicket pair of Shrewsbury and Stamp securing a draw. Events at Colwyn Bay were more anticlimactic as Lancashire, with John Crawley scoring a second hundred in the match and a third in succession, failed to set Glamorgan a realistic fourth-innings target.

Johnners trusts in future of youth cricket

By JOHN GOODBODY

BRIAN JOHNSTON was the most cheerily enthusiastic of cricket commentators. His youthful zest aroused interest in a sport that he adored with the innocent fascination of a boy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the Memorial Trust in his name should be dedicated to helping youngsters who are in need of financial support.

The event is organised by the English Schools' Cricket Association (ESCA), which this year celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, and gives a glimpse of who may be good enough to play in county and even Test cricket in the next century.

One of those youngsters is Stephen Pope, a talented batsman and wicket-keeper, who will be playing today in the Bunbury under-15 festival at Wellington College, Berkshire, from which the national team for the age-group will be selected.

He started playing at the Hatherley and Reddings club and, encouraged by Rob Hall, a sports master, his career has blossomed. "Stephen's main attributes are his temperament and, as a wicketkeeper, his good hands," Pope Sr said. "He catches well."

As a scrum-half, Pope was invited to be a member of the last 45 for possible selection for the England under-16 rugby union team. However, the sessions followed a week's cricket at Littleham and he could not attend both.



Pope: talented

practice. This year, his ambitions are to play more often for the county second XI and to get into the England Under-15 team.

Earlier this year, he represented the ESCA South West region in a tour of the West Indies, when the team won seven of eight matches playing against boys of 18 years and over. Against Grenada, Pope scored 65, the highest individual total of the tour, in a partnership of 130 with Damian Shrazal, the England Under-14 captain last year.

As a "Johnners Scholar", he receives £250 of cricket equipment from Gunn and Moore and £250 towards his travelling expenses, which he used to help pay for the costs of the West Indies tour.

He has Andy Stovold, the former Gloucestershire wicketkeeper and county director of coaching, as a mentor. In second XI matches, he keeps wicket against adult players, but his father said: "As soon as it comes to Stephen's turn to bat, Gloucestershire declare. After all, at the age of 14, he could be facing someone like Courtney Walsh."

As a wicketkeeper, Pope said that he concentrates on watching the ball from the moment it leaves the bowler's hand. "My legs get tired after a day in the field, particularly my ankles, which become very sore," he said.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Glamorgan v Lancashire

Table with columns: Bowling, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes names like P C Mackintosh, M Wood, P A Cobby, M O'Connell, G D Lloyd, M Watson, M W K Heag, M J Butler, P J Fenton, D P Fulton, N V Knight, D C Boon, M R Bennett.

Warwickshire v Essex

Table with columns: Bowling, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes names like D Blythe, M P Vaughan, M J Wood, D S Latham, D W Heasley, M J Lewis, D E W Silverwood.

Edgbaston

Table with columns: Bowling, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes names like J J Langer, M W Gatting, D J Goodchild, J L Langer, M W Gatting, D J Goodchild.

Colwyn Bay

Table with columns: Bowling, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes names like P C Mackintosh, M Wood, P A Cobby, M O'Connell, G D Lloyd, M Watson, M W K Heag, M J Butler, P J Fenton, D P Fulton, N V Knight, D C Boon, M R Bennett.

Warwickshire v Essex

Table with columns: Bowling, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes names like D Blythe, M P Vaughan, M J Wood, D S Latham, D W Heasley, M J Lewis, D E W Silverwood.

Warwickshire v Essex

Table with columns: Bowling, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Includes names like D Blythe, M P Vaughan, M J Wood, D S Latham, D W Heasley, M J Lewis, D E W Silverwood.



Crawley: 136 at Colwyn Bay

LEADING FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

Table with columns: Batting, Qualification, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Lists players like G Kirsten, M B Lyle, J Langer, D J Goodchild, M W Gatting, D J Goodchild, M W Gatting, D J Goodchild.

LEADING FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

Table with columns: Bowling, Qualification, Runs, Wickets, Overs. Lists players like C White, M P Vaughan, M J Wood, D S Latham, D W Heasley, M J Lewis, D E W Silverwood.



Gating: 103 not out

Heptathlete shows welcome return to form in time for Budapest

Lewis able to look ahead with optimism

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

DENISE LEWIS began to look yesterday like the Commonwealth heptathlon champion she is when, at the BUPA AAA Championships in Birmingham...

in the next two or three weeks. Her British record stands at 6,736 points. Jonathan Edwards, albeit reluctantly, won the triple jump...

Lewis was only three centimetres below her career-best high jump as she cleared 1.82 metres. What made this so satisfying was the fact that she achieved it 24 hours after she had contested three events on the second day of these championships...

"Overnight, my ankle was a bit sore, but after the strapping and anti-inflammatories, I felt fine out there," Lewis said. "If there was going to be a reaction after the long jump and hurdles, I would have felt it for the high jump. It is all coming back to me, all those old feelings of competing. I can really start my preparation for Budapest."

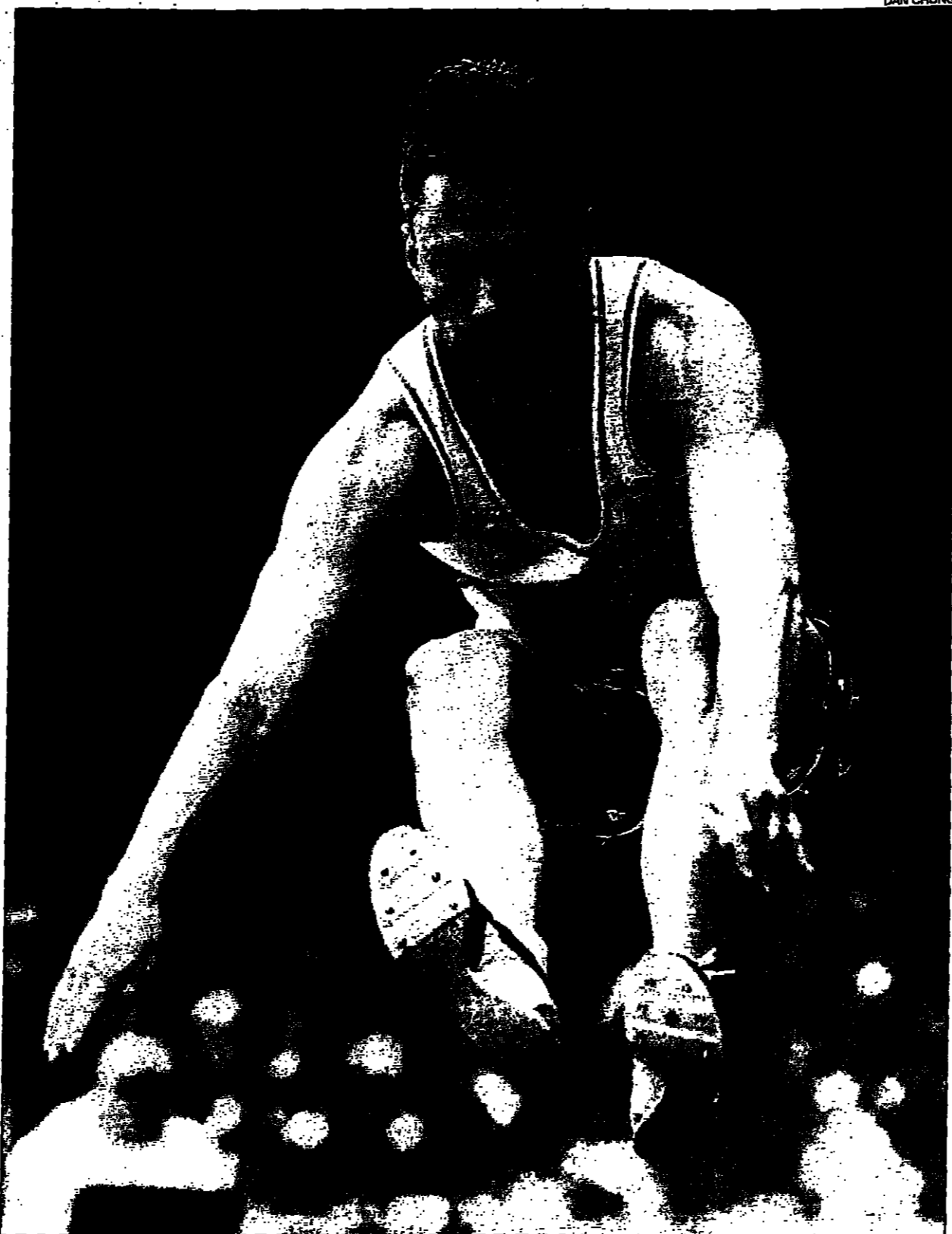
On Saturday, Lewis finished fifth in the 100 metres hurdles in 13.73sec, won the long jump with 6.44 metres and was fifth in the javelin with 51.28 metres. In the high jump yesterday, she was second. All this against Britain's best individual event specialists.

"If you put that altogether, it is not bad," she said. "You are looking at something in the region of 6,400 points and I know I can improve on this

"In an ideal world, I probably would not have come here," Edwards said. Having won his event, as part of Britain's victorious men's team, in the European Cup last month and triumphed at the Goodwill Games in New York on Tuesday, Edwards still has several more peaks before him this summer. Unless this season, Edwards is aiming for gold medals at the European championships, World Cup and Commonwealth Games, as well as attempting to win his event in the International Amateur Athletic Federation Golden League. There is a \$1 million bonus to be shared among athletes unbeaten at all six Golden League meetings.

Edwards has also committed to the commercial meetings in Britain and, having won at the Bupa Games in Gateshead eight days ago, he is due to compete in the British grand prix meeting at Sheffield next Sunday. Edwards has suggested to Tudor Bidder, Britain's event coach for jumps, that selection policy be reviewed.

Favouring a return to the pre-selection policy used some years ago, Edwards said: "In the past few years, we have not had a heap of gold medals and those athletes with the most chance should be allowed to prepare in the way that is most relevant. With all the pressures on athletes these days,



Edwards, despite only taking two of his six permitted jumps, was a clear-cut winner in Birmingham yesterday

with a bit of leeway I am sure a solution could be found." Edwards took only two of the permitted six jumps, winning with his second-round effort of 17.12 metres. Down on the track, he was icing his ankle, but the slight soreness he was feeling in his medial tendon was not, he said, his reason for passing on the last four rounds. It was more that, rather than treat the occasion as a championship final, he chose to approach it like a qualifying competition.

Games, in Victoria, Canada, four years ago, Edwards finished as runner-up to Julian Golley. Yesterday, Golley had to settle for third place, with 16.28 metres, squeezing into the England team for Kuala Lumpur in September. Larry Achike, the 1994 world junior champion, finished second, also with 16.28 metres. The pecking order in the men's javelin suffered no disturbance as Steve Buckley, the defending Commonwealth and European champion, finished a clear winner

from Mick Hill, runner-up at the past three Commonwealth Games. Buckley threw 84.98 metres, Hill 81.55 metres and Mark Roberson, in third place, 78.93 metres. Paul Gray is the latest British sprint hurdler to follow in the line of those who have moved up to the one-lap hurdles with some success. Back in the Sixties, it was David Hemery in the Seventies, it was Alan Pascoe; Jonathan Ridgeon was an Eighties sprint hurdler who made his mark at the longer

event. Can Gray be Nineties man? Gray beat Anthony Borsumano, who was Britain's choice for the European Cup spot last month, to take the title in 49.81sec. Anybody breaking 50 seconds has to count himself as a serious 400 metres hurdler and Gray, having won Commonwealth bronze at 110 metres hurdles in Victoria, must now be considered a potential finalist in the European championships for Britain and the Commonwealth Games for Wales.

Brown vows to beat the drug cheats

David Powell on a Briton's fears that EPO use is rife in athletics

JON BROWN, Great Britain's leading distance runner, spoke openly for the first time at the weekend about his concern that athletics is going down the same track as cycling, with use of erythropoietin (EPO) rife. "Even two years ago, I would say it was virtually non-existent in distance running, but I think now you have got some main players operating on the stuff," Brown said.

At a time when the EPO issue has scarred the Tour de France, the use of it as a performance-enhancing drug especially beneficial to endurance athletes has been highlighted. Brown, having qualified on Saturday for the Britain team to go to the European championships in Budapest next month, said that he was going to "prove people can run well not using EPO".

Brown, the 1996 European cross-country champion, said that EPO use was endemic among the Continent's 10,000 metres and marathon runners and added that his main motivation for going to Budapest was to beat the cheats. "It is getting very widespread in distance running," Brown said. "I feel like I have seen a lot of weird stuff over the past 18 months or so."

Brown said that he wanted to make his mark in a European track championship before the use of EPO became so dominant that he would have no chance without it. "Soon there is no way anybody is going to beat these characters without playing their game," Brown added.

"It is mainly the European athletes. I would not suspect any East Africans. The Kenyans are getting more organised and training properly rather than haphazardly in the past, so it is partly because of that."

"That is a road that some countries feel they are going down. Once you go down that road — the same as cycling — sport is not real sport and the barriers are unlimited. In cycling, it is team policy and, if you do not do it, you have got no chance. I would not like to see distance running go that way."

The world of drugs is one that Diane Modahl was drawn into four years ago when she was sent home from the Commonwealth Games, a urine test taken nine weeks earlier having been revealed as positive. Now Modahl, who was reinstated 21 months into a four-year ban, by the International Amateur Athletic Federation declared that the test had been unreliable, can plan her return to the Commonwealth stage, in Kuala Lumpur in September, after winning the 800 metres selection trial in Birmingham.

Modahl held off the challenge of Tanya Blake to cross the line in 2min 27.35sec. Although she possesses the



Brown qualified

Commonwealth qualifying time, Modahl does not yet have the British standard of 2min 15sec that she needs for the European championships. She will chase that in the Paris grand prix on Wednesday.

By then, the position with regard to Modahl's £800,000 legal claim against the British Athletic Federation should be closer to a resolution. Her lawyers are due to meet today with the administrators, who were called in when the federation declared itself insolvent. On Wednesday, the administrators meet with the federation creditors' committee. If the meetings satisfy both sides, an out-of-court settlement could be reached.

Tour de France, page 32

GOODWILL GAMES: DELIGHTED AUSTRALIAN IS UNEXPECTED WINNER OF WOMEN'S TRIATHLON



Lessing breaks the tape and acclaims his victory in the triathlon event of the Goodwill Games in New York

Lessing serves notice of intent for Sydney

SIMON LESSING gave warning that he will be a strong contender for the first Olympic triathlon gold medal in Sydney in two years' time with a fine performance at the Goodwill Games in New York. The South African-born Briton, who lives and trains in the French Alps, won in 1hr 46min 33sec, well ahead of the field, despite a wrong turn in the final Central Park run. "There was no one there to tell us to turn," Lessing said. "We ran the course backward, anti-clockwise. We didn't run any extra, maybe a little more uphill than down."

In the women's event, there was a more unexpected result. Loretta Harrop, of Australia, won with a time of 1hr 59min 43sec, but she is ranked only No 6 in her national pecking order, even though she is deemed to be No 12 in the world rankings. Harrop, however, is looking not just to the next Games, but the event four years hence. "I'm looking to Sydney, but there is always 2004 for me," she said. "Being one of the youngest on the Australian team, Sydney would be a great bonus."

Lessing was less sure that he would be the leading contender to beat in Sydney. "There are a number of us who can do pretty well and

Australian woman, who edged Erika Molnar, of Hungary, into third place by just sec. Emma Carney, the world champion, was seventh. "I'm just blown away. It's unreal," Harrop said. "I just grabbed hold of the race and went flat out the whole way." She had the fastest ride in the cycling event en route to the biggest victory of her three-year career. Harrop switched from swimming to the triathlon after failing to qualify for the 1994 Commonwealth Games in the 100 metres butterfly. She now lives and trains in Geneva.

Harrop and Barb Lindquist, of the United States, began at a brisk pace in the swimming event and worked together to build a three-minute lead over the rest of the competitors going into the running event. Lindquist faded but Harrop held on. "We tried to get as big a lead as possible," Harrop said. "It was easier in the pack. They have more people to switch off the lead. Barb and I had to time-trial it."

"We tried to set up for the run. Three minutes is a pretty good lead. I was running on adrenalin. At the start of the run, I was feeling good. I just got into a rhythm and could hold it."



Competitors surge through Hyde Park during the Flora Women's Challenge yesterday

Running for the memory

AMID scenes reminiscent of a more sombre event held there last year, the crowd piled into Hyde Park. The grounds in which many congregated for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales were chosen to stage the first Flora Women's Challenge to raise money for the fund set up in her name. Like last year, they came in their hundreds from every corner of the country. This time, however, they came not to mourn, but to run.

Jennai Cox watches a determined group of women fill Hyde Park for the Diana fund

per hour and I finished in 30 minutes. I can never go that fast on a treadmill in a gym." The organisers' aim of the race being a catalyst to help women start or restart exercise seems to have worked. Having run for the first time in 2½ years after injury, Andrea Rayner was equally pleased with her half-hour finishing time and intends to start running again. Jackie Fragapane competed in the Challenge to see what time she was capable of running. She shared a feeling that was common among all the finishers after coming nineteenth in just over 20 minutes: complete surprise at her achievement. "Perhaps I should start running more seriously," she said. It is a sentiment that the organisers hope will cross the minds of many more women before the event is staged again next year.

Table with sports results for Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Wrestling, and other events. Columns include event names, countries, and scores/positions.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Fun T', 'Have New mo', 'Zeman's meet and', and 'Kuerten'. It appears to be a continuation of text from another page or a sidebar.

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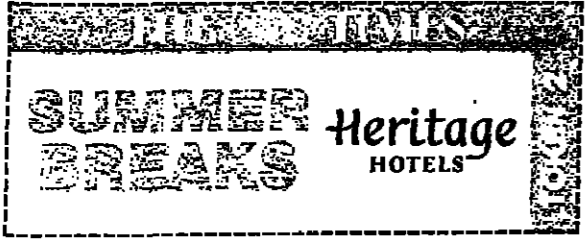
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CHANGING TIMES

RUGBY UNION: WAY OPEN FOR NEW CONTINENTAL CLUB COMPETITION

French withdrawal sounds European Cup death-knell

By Christopher Irvine

A COLLECTIVE *non* to participation by the nine professional French clubs leaves the European Cup dead in the water. With the leading English clubs adamant that they will not take part in the competition under its present European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) administration, the way is now open for an alternative European tournament.

Brive and Toulouse, former winners of the competition, joined Stade Français, Bourgoin, Bègles-Bordeaux, Pau, Narbonne, Castres and Perpignan in a declaration yesterday that they are withdrawing from the European Cup, which has been rendered utterly valueless. Sponsors and television will not touch a tournament left to participants from Scotland and Ireland; Italian clubs are likely to side with their French cousins.

Premiership clubs to take part, along with Cardiff and Swansea, and up to 16 French teams.

There were hints last week that Sir John Hall, the Newcastle owner, could withdraw his funding from last season's champions if the owners did not get their way on an alternative European competition. Sir John has held discussions with French clubs in recent months.

Under the Mayfair Agreement with the Rugby Football Union (RFU), cross-border competitions need to be sanctioned by the relevant unions. Not that the English clubs are likely to be making a hasty march to Twickenham, now that they see themselves in a position of enhanced power.

Only 24 hours before the French withdrawal, Roger Pickering, the European Cup tournament director, urged that it was still not too late for the English clubs to reconsider participating, as they would stand to gain £3 million. With greater control, clubs believe that they stand to gain far more.

Provisional fixtures for the European Cup, won last season by Bath,

had been issued. Now, six weeks before the start of the English and French seasons, precise dates and matches remain up in the air — again in contravention of the Mayfair Agreement. The idea of a Celtic Cup, mooted before, has limited appeal to Scottish and Irish clubs, who see themselves being excluded from valuable and necessary European exposure.

Having rebuffed the clubs in their attempt to recruit Cardiff and Swansea into the Premiership, Brian Baister, eight days into his chairmanship of the RFU management board, now appreciates the sort of problems that consumed Cliff Brittle, his predecessor.

Reacting to the news from France, Baister said yesterday: "This reminds me of our recent problems. The French clubs and the French federation are working from different agendas, with the clubs not appreciating that the federation has a wider responsibility."

Clubs in France need to be sanctioned by the federation to play outside the auspices of the ERC.

The nine clubs are opposed to plans by the federation for 24 teams in two groups in the new domestic championship. Instead, they want 16 or, at most, 20 clubs to take part.

On one hand, the clubs in England are extolling the virtues of greater control over their destiny, while the reality impressed upon the game last week by the near demise of Bristol tells a very different story. In Wales, Neath have disappeared already. The professional era, far from the saviour of Coventry and Moseley, has seen those two former great clubs nearly driven to the wall.

Orrrell have returned to win bonuses for players and Blackheath have returned to part-time status — a theme taken up by Jonathan Davies, the former Wales captain, yesterday. "At the moment, rugby can't support the bulk of the players who are drawing big pay packets," he said. "It is appalling to see clubs like Bristol and Neath going under and others are sure to follow unless they take action. The only answer is semi-professionalism and the quicker the game moves in that direction the better."



Rossouw breaks clear of the New Zealand defence to score the game's only try at Athletic Park

South Africa line holds firm to deny All Blacks

New Zealand..... 3
South Africa..... 13

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THERE are still 15 months to go until the 1999 World Cup, but with every match that they play South Africa come closer to a successful defence of their title. After beating New Zealand on Saturday, the fiftieth meeting of these inveterate rivals, they have completed the hardest part of a first success in the tri-nations series. More significantly, they have a young squad that is capable of improving.

It is impossible to underestimate the boost to morale that successive wins in eight days over Australia and the All Blacks will have brought to Nick Mallett's team. Under Mallett's coaching, they have won 11 consecutive internationals; they now have a chance to recover before meeting New Zealand in Durban (on August 15) and Australia in Johannesburg (August 22).

Not only that. Their hard-earned win in Wellington, on one of Athletic Park's balmy days, was their first overseas success against the All Blacks since the "barbed-wire" tour of 1981 and was founded firmly on an outstanding defence. That was the area on which Kitch Christie's World Cup winners placed so much emphasis and Mallett has taken similar precautions.

Yet he will recognise that fortune has also been on his side. In successive matches, opposing goalkickers — Matt Burke of Australia, and, on Saturday, Carlos Spencer — have failed utterly to punish South African misdemeanours. Spencer missed five penalty attempts before being replaced by Andrew Mehrtens, who retains the place at fly half against Australia next Saturday with John Hart, the All Blacks coach, acknowledging that he should not have been omitted in the first place.

Hart has been pondering

what to do with his midfield ever since Frank Bunce retired earlier this year: if Spencer's attacking light is snuffed out, he has no cutting edge. So it was that New Zealand could dominate utterly the first half with South Africa, yet still turn round trailing 3-0 with Justin Marshall, Hart's first-choice scrum half, off the field with a bruised hip that may yet keep him out of this Saturday's game on his home ground at Christchurch.

There is an indecision in All Black ranks that contrasted strangely with South Africa's considered approach: the Springboks are not the most expansive side in the world — yet — but the pieces that could make them so are falling into place.

They allowed Taine Randell to break clear from the base of the scrum once, but otherwise there was scarcely a sniff of the tryline for the All Blacks. Only a rejuvenated Jonah Lomu posed genuine problems for South Africa, who moved forward rather than sideways with ball in hand and nailed the match down with eight minutes to go: Henry Honiball kicked his team into the corner and then played pivot to the move that sent Pieter Rossouw over for the game's only try.

SCORERS: New Zealand: Penalty goal: Hehlers (60min); South Africa: Try: Rossouw (72); Conversion: Moutonney; Penalty goals: Montgomery 2 (26, 88)

SCORING SEQUENCE: (New Zealand first): 0-3 (full-time), 3-3, 3-13.
NEW ZEALAND: C M Cullen (Wellington); W Wilson (Chago); M A Meyerhoffer (Christchurch); S J Laidlaw (Wellington); W K Little (North Harbour); J T Marshall (Christchurch); G J Spencer (Auckland); A D Oliver (Chago); C W Dowd (Auckland); A D Jones (North Harbour); R M Brooke (Auckland); M W Jones (Auckland); rep: 1 Moko, Otago, 80; J A Kromhid (Chago); T C Randell (Chago, captain).

SOUTH AFRICA: P C Montgomery (Western Province); G S Terblanche (Grahamstown); H Strydom (Northern Transvaal); rep: P F (Natal); P W G Rossouw (Western Province); rep: C M Williams, Western Province, 15-18; H W Honiball (Natal); J H van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal); R S Kempton (Natal); rep: A-H le Roux, Natal, 54; J Dethlefs (Grahamstown); A C Garvey (Western Province); rep: A D Albani (Western Province); A G Verter (Free State); G H Teichmann (Natal, captain); rep: E F Morrison (England)

SPEEDWAY

Britain's best wary of Scandinavians

TWO Scandinavian riders served a warning to the best of British under-21 riders at the weekend, just a week before the world junior championship final (Tony Hoare writes). Great Britain has four riders in the final, which is to be staged in Pila in Poland this Sunday, but Nicki Pedersen, of Denmark, and Andreas Jonsson, of Sweden, have stolen the limelight.

Pedersen, 21, scored 15 points from six rides in Newcastle's 32-58 defeat against Peterborough on Saturday and was the only rider to make an impact against the Premier League leaders. Jonsson was unbeaten for the Sweden Under-21 team on Friday at the Orebros track. The Rospiigarna rider — the No 1 target for clubs in this country — has so far repelled all moves from English sides hoping to sign him.

However, his efforts in Ore-

bro could not prevent the English juniors winning by six points and clinching the two-match series. Sweden won 15-46 in Mariestad on Thursday, but the 51-45 win by England the next night made sure of a victory. The top England performer in Orebro was Lee Richardson, of Reading, who makes his world under-21 final debut this weekend.

Richardson, who will be joined by his compatriots Leigh Lambam, Andre Compton and Scott Nicholls, was beaten only twice in six rides. Nicholls missed the series because of commitments to Ipswich. He scored five points for them against Coventry on Saturday as they lost 46-44. Nottingham local councillors are campaigning to save the future of the Long Eaton stadium, which went into receivership before the start of the season.

30p

THE TIMES

TRANSFERRED

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CHANGING TIMES

سكدا من الامل

Play acted out to make compulsive viewing

We seem to have spent an awful lot of this summer switching on the television, saying "oh God" and then switching off again. Certainly, that has been the easiest way of watching England play cricket. Test cricket, uniquely in international sport, requires not only periods of concentrated watching but also intermittent moments of catching up on the news.

And, throughout the summer, catching up has taken priority over actual watching. You need badly to see how England are doing, but you can't really bear to watch them doing it for sustained periods.

What's been the worst? The buffet bowling? Or the still more predictable batting collapses? Answer: neither. The worst bit has been the brief — very brief — periods in which England looked like a proper and purposeful cricket team. Because you knew the disaster would follow as the sparks fly upward.

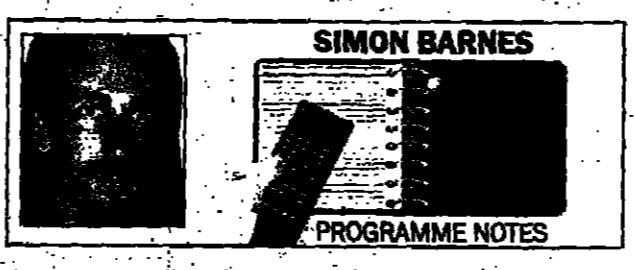
So we needed this Test match. We needed a match contested between equals, in which the outcome was uncertain, in which the balance shifted and shifted again in a troubling and volatile fashion, in which the best players on both sides played at or close to their best.

Above all, we needed — cricket needed — a match of the sustained and increasing tensions, taunting and taunting again over a period of days, a commodity that only Test cricket can deliver.

Just about every sport in the calendar has upstaged cricket this summer. The World Cup distracted attention away from cricket, which was probably to cricket's benefit, if anything. Then, golf, of all things, brought us a weekend of youth and hope.

England's cricket has been marked by incompetent selection and a curious team dynamic. Success seemed to be a matter of the individual, the retention of your place. The only time that the team shared things was when it was time for the next disaster.

Responsibility. The Gloucestershire under-15s, I know, spend a colossal amount of



time practising their fielding. This does not make them better fielders. It makes them better cricketers. It makes them responsible cricketers. Each player is responsible for and to the team.

It is a fundamental difference in attitude between aspiring young cricketers and established club cricketers. This kind of cohesion, of shared purpose, is something that England have constantly

strived for and constantly failed to find at Test level.

It is precisely this matter that is South Africa's greatest strength. When they bat, you never quite seem to get through them. When they field, they give a very satisfying impression of being prepared to die for each other.

They have Jonty Rhodes, one of the great fielders of all time, a man made for television, constantly in motion, doing something absolutely remarkable every 20 minutes and acting as talisman for his side. South Africa are like a football team, with everyone prepared to do a vast amount of running off the ball for everyone else.

Until yesterday, that is, the fourth day of a Test match of grinding tensions. Miraculously, a day of transformation. A South Africa scorecard is normally remarkable for the amount that each individual contributes: the second innings contained six single-figure scores — seven if you count Extras.

Cricket people have spent a long time waiting for the new Boham, but there are other virtues, less flashy ones than Boham personified. For a start, there are the virtues of corporate strength and responsibility. Then there are the profound and ultimately unflashy strengths of such absolutely genuine team men as Angus Fraser and Michael Atherton.

I suspect one of the reasons that Fraser has not been every selector's first choice is because he does not look good on telly. But then nor does Pete Sampras. Both look like miserable so-and-sos, going through a dark and depressing experience. The joy of youth and vitality seems beyond them.

In both, the fires burn unseen. Their hearts and their body-language are out of kilter. Fraser acts like a man at the end of his tether, but you

never get to the bottom of him. Ask more, he gives more.

Atherton is a man of the same type. He hardly plays a memorable shot. He is not dull, in the sense that he pats back the half-volleys and thinks of his average. Like Geoffrey Boycott at his worst. But he has, more than any English batsman for years, shown a real stomach for the fight. Atherton's duel with Donald was quite perfect sporting television: the glaring, muttering of Donald countered by the determinedly bland face of Atherton.

Perfect Test match cricket, perfect sport. The individual duel, the greater battle for the team. Tensions within tensions within tensions. No other sport can do this.

'Without commitment to the franchises, expansion is in danger of becoming a dirty word again'

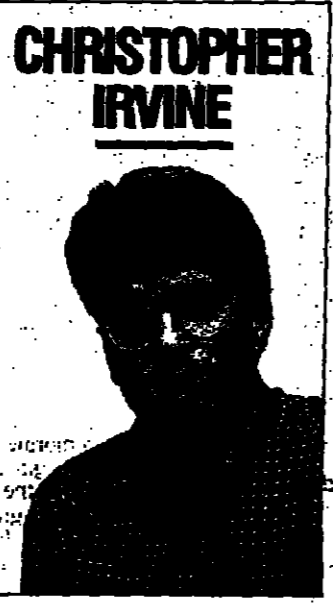
Game in desperate search of a profile

When rugby league talks in terms of expansion, the immediate reaction is to blanch and discard the notion as errant nonsense. Remember Southend (formerly Kent Invicta), Bridgend (né Cardiff City) and Mansfield Marksmen in the ambitious Eighties and, long before those starry-eyed ventures, Coventry, Newcastle, Ebbw Vale, Merthyr Tydfil, Morecambe and many more?

The game has had countless starts in Wales, all at supposedly a ripe time (now, for instance, because Welsh rugby union is imploding), with only fleeting success. In Gateshead, Cardiff and Swansea at the weekend, the missionary drum was beaten loud and proud as the JJB Super League wound up its three-week "on the road" series in those places bidding for franchises next year.

Crowds have been unspectacular, but encouraging enough for the experiment to be repeated. No one could ever fault the sport for its missionary zeal — Sheffield Eagles and London Broncos are testaments to that enthusiasm — but Sheffield's failure to increase crowds after their unlikely triumph in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup in May and a halving of attendances to under 3,000 at London demonstrate just how difficult it is to sustain momentum.

This time, rugby league cannot afford to be turned back by the tide of history, now that its future is secure with a new £56.8 million television contract up to 2003 with The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. Next season will see one or more franchise clubs. None of Gateshead, Cardiff and Swansea combine ideally the elements of money, stadium and playing infrastructure to ensure success. Well-versed in the art of bookmaking, Maurice Lindsay, the managing director of



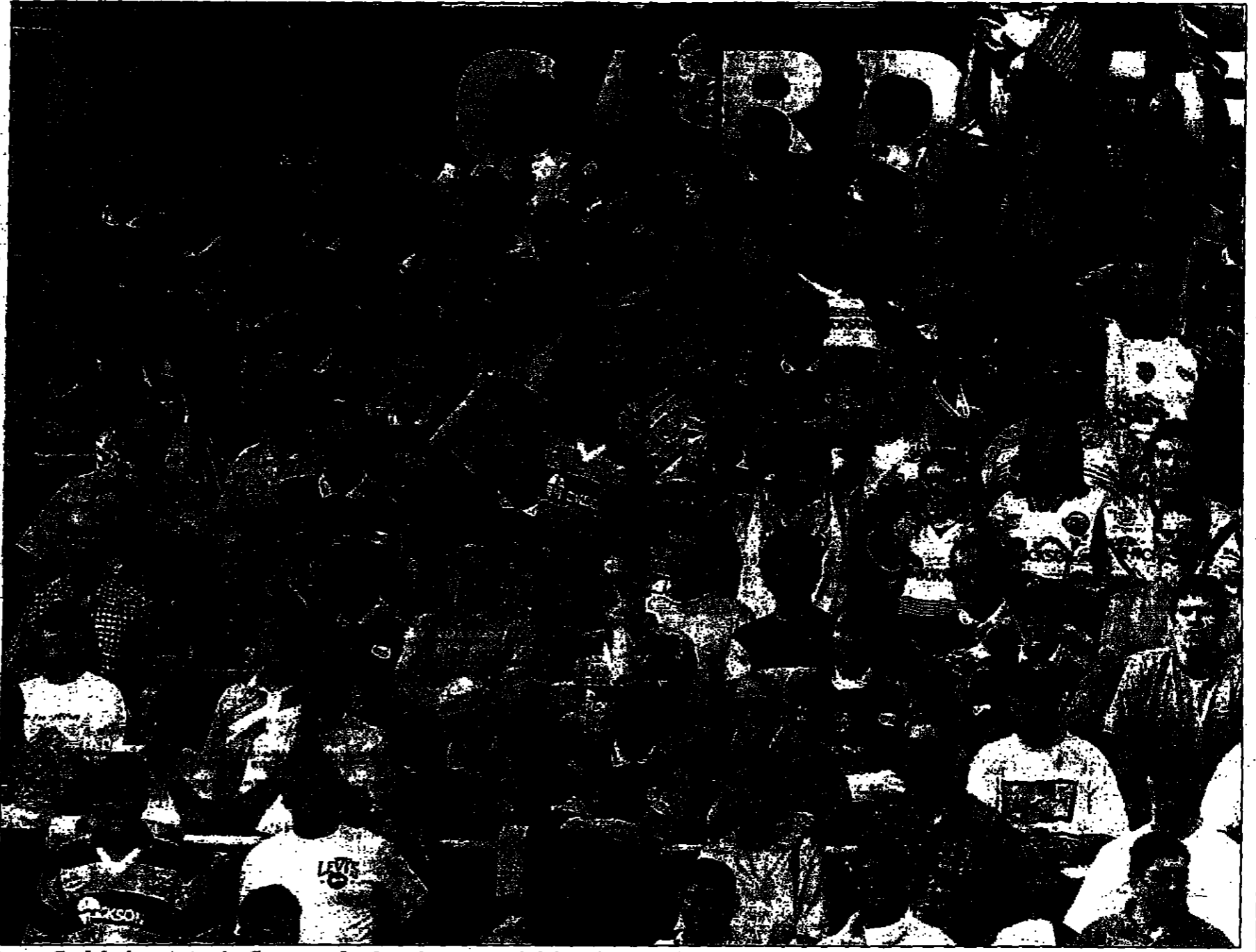
CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

Super League Europe, the leading clubs' umbrella organisation, appreciates that it is a gamble.

For now, the odds favour slightly Gateshead's entry next year. If Cardiff, Swansea, or both, are overlooked until 2000, rugby league in Wales is unlikely to survive a second rejection in two years. Lindsay is exasperated with the time that it is taking to make the decision, now due on August 15, as the Rugby Football League's accountants examine the fine details and an independent assessment panel prepares to scrutinise each applicant.

"It has been a laborious and, at times, ham-fisted procedure," Lindsay said. "I can't draw up the fixture list for next season, but this game must spread its wings. We can't stagnate around the M62 corridor, and in Gateshead, Cardiff and Swansea, to a greater or lesser degree, we have the ingredients to avoid another Paris."

When Lindsay talks of avoiding "another Paris", he refers to the



Castleford supporters in all manner of undress demonstrate their loyalties in Cardiff as the Super League takes to the road. Photograph: Huw Evans

demise of the club in which he staked his reputation and where the Super League era was launched spectacularly in March 1996. Paris fizzed out after two seasons, partly because the team lost its French identity. Australian players made up the side last year. Because there are insufficient British players of quality to furnish 12, let alone 14 or 15 clubs, crowds in the North East and Wales will generally be supporting Australian "beef on the bone" — to borrow the Super League's catchphrase.

The Luddite tendency, quite reasonably, argue the case for retrenchment and consolidating areas of strength. It is because crowds are disappointing in the

first and second divisions that the smaller clubs are actively discussing a return to a winter season. Whatever the merits of better weather, it is not been the catalyst that the sport had hoped.

The encouraging news is that in universities, the new national conference, in leagues in Scotland, Wales and Ireland, the Armed Forces and the women's game, participation is soaring. Gateshead and Cardiff both have flourishing academy teams. Hemel Hempstead lead the traditional clubs in the Alliance first division and have applied to join the second division proper next season.

Ray French, the BBC Television commentator, said: "What you're seeing in universities, for instance,

is league wiping rugby union off the map, such is its popularity. The junior game has never been so strong at a national level, underpinned by quality administration which the professional game has lacked for years. But without a national profile, the game could wither away and it's why Gateshead and a Welsh side must come in and be seen to succeed."

In Gateshead, there would be an element of going up against rugby union, now that Newcastle have decided to move their home games from Kingston Park to the International Stadium. Having three years ago courted Sir John Hall, who then opted for the newly-profession-

SPORTS LETTERS

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e-mail, including postal address, to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

This week in THE TIMES

- Tomorrow: The 1948 Olympians gather in London this week to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the last Games in Britain. David Powell hears Stan Cox, above, talk of good times past.
- Wednesday: First reports from Glorious Goodwood, a highlight of the horse racing summer, and a look forward to the Sussex Stakes.
- Thursday: Celtic and Rangers hope to make progress in Europe — but how have they fared against Irish opposition?
- Saturday: Is Cowes Week losing its appeal? Ed Gorman charts the increasing attraction of Cork for British sailors.

Reasons for drug-taking

From Dr Julian Rowe

Sir, "You don't win the Tour de France by eating sandwiches and drinking mineral water," according to Eddie Merckx, who won the Tour five times. Surely your columnist, John Bryant (Bryant's Eye, July 23), has pinpointed exactly the dilemma facing cycling after the Festina affair and many other sports when he writes: "... if (EPO) is practically all taking it, what is the point? Who gains the advantage? Would it make any difference to their relative positions if they all stopped?"

Speakers at most sports go to see individual athletes or team they support win there's where the excitement lies. Clipping 13/1,000th of a second of a 100-metre record is only perceptible to the electronic device that measures it.

Can we now drop such specious nonsense such as a split Olympics — one for drug enthusiasts and another for "clean" athletes — aired recently? If we can regard sport as more about winning (and dare one say, participating) rather than only about beating what are often fairly nominal records, then the ethical and

pharmaceutical dilemma pretty much vanishes.

Yours etc,
JULIAN ROWE,
"Cranston", Lake View Road,
Dormans Park,
East Grinstead RH19 2LS.
John.rowe@virgin.net.

Open golf

From Mr Alexander Cullen

Sir, Lynne Truss is concerned by what she perceives as the "old-bore masonic" image of the game of golf and blames Peter Alliss for its downfall (article, July 20). But why pick on poor Peter Alliss, who is only trying to be to golf what the late, lamented Brian Johnson was to Test cricket? As one observer noted recently: "He remains a mellifluous beacon amongst a ragbag of bland commentary, particularly in view of his inclination to whimsy during his post-luncheon sessions." The odd avuncular aside to churns offstage hardly constitutes a headlong spiral into cosy club-bond elitism and if references to "Big Eric" found Ms Truss blushing, then I am only sorry that, unlike the rest of us, she failed to share the joke.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER CULLEN,
Shearston Farm, Cricke,
Perthshire PH7 3RD.
s.cullen@btinternet.net

Survival of two cricket magazines

From Mr E. W. Swanton

Sir, Your "Extra Cover" feature of July 22, having quoted me as President of *The Cricketer* saying I believe there is a market for two magazines, reveals the heavy loss sustained in the past six months of 1997 by *Wisden Cricket Monthly* (WCM), *The Cricketer*, on the other hand, shows a regular annual profit.

There is no doubt that sporting magazines have been hit by the publication by the quality newspapers of sports supplements. Also sales markedly reflect for better or worse the current success or otherwise of the England XI. In this respect, *The Cricketer*, which covers the game at all levels from schools to Test series, has an advantage over WCM, which restricts itself almost entirely to first-class and Test cricket.

When our audited ABC circulation is shortly published, it will show a figure more than 50 per cent higher than WCM's quoted 18,462. Our circulation contains a healthy proportion of regular subscribers. Both magazines serve the best interests of cricket and if economic pressure should ever suggest a coming-together, it would help that a cordial relationship exists between the respective owners, E. G. Brocklehurst and Sir Paul Getty.

Yours faithfully,
E. W. SWANTON,
Delf House, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9HF.

From Mr Archie Rickwood

Sir, I read with horror Lynne Truss's article, Peter Alliss has been my Peter O'Sullivan of golf commentary. He and his co-commentators have given it to us as they see it, calling on vast experience of the game. One pointed comment that Alliss made was in relation to crowd control: "All over the world all you need to control golf crowds in their thousands is a piece of string."

Yours sincerely,
ARCHIE RICKWOOD,
29 Alton Gardens,
Southend-on-Sea,
Essex SS2 6QU.

From Mr Kev Nee

Sir, Well done to Lynne Truss I thought I was the only one up

Instant video evidence

From Mr Marc Brown

Sir, John Brennan (Sports Letters, July 20) and others suggest that, after a match, video recordings could be reviewed and additional red and yellow cards handed out.

If video technology is used to help referees, it must be used during the match as incidents happen and not afterwards. It is no consolation to a team that is knocked out of the World Cup when, after the final whistle, the player they had sent off is "pardoned" or one of their victorious opponents is given a post-match card for the dive that resulted in the deciding penalty being awarded. It is also impractical to alter the result of the game.

Yours faithfully,
MARC BROWN,
14 The Green, Edlesborough,
Buckinghamshire LU6 2JF.

No shirt-pulling

From Mr David Lew

Sir, A solution to the plague of shirt-pulling that afflicted the World Cup was provided by a female Chelsea fan at the 1997 Cup Final who arrived topless apart from a body-painted replica Chelsea shirt. So long

as the FA maintain their objections to mixed gender matches and coaches avoid overweight players, there would be little for the defenders to get a grip on if this style of kit were adopted.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID N. LEW,
43 Ossulton Way, N2 0JY.

Re-educated

From Mr D. L. Hazelden

Sir, Schoolboy physics left me cold, golf always seemed a waste of time, but your report today (July 23) — "the ball soared, hovered and landed softly as a lightly poached egg on a breakfast plate" — awakened my interest in both.

Yours faithfully,
D. L. HAZELDEN,
30 St. James's Road,
Hastings TN34 3LH.

Half right

From Mr David Fraser

Sir, I heartily endorse and support the decision by England not to bat in the Test match at Trent Bridge, but, surely, they should not have bowled either.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID G. FRASER,
16 Worthing Road,
East Preston,
Littlehampton,
West Sussex BN16 1AZ.

SAILING

Germany's team effort produces best results

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE Germany red team of Hese, Sequana and Topas, which started the Rolex Commodores' Cup as many people's favourites to wrest the title from England...

The Germans went into the race on Friday after slipping one place to second overall, behind the Holland red team...

Norbert Plambeck, the owner and skipper of Hese, the Judel/Vrolijk 45, praised what he called the sustained team effort put in by the Germans...

Results

said. "It was a little worrying near the end when the wind dropped to 1.5 knots, but it eventually picked up and we managed to stay ahead of Victric 5, of the England red team."

Thomas Jungbluth, the skipper of Sequana, the Germany middle boat, the First 40.7, has still to be beaten in this series and is proving to be a formidable opponent in both light and fresh conditions...

The race, which was also sailed by the Royal Ocean Racing Club fleet, proved a very tricky and exhausting test

in generally light airs, featuring strong spring tides that caused compressions in running order and which made things tough for the heavier boats in the smaller classes...

The race was supposed to be a "flexi-course" lasting 28 hours, but, in the event, it was shortened to around 24 hours, by which time the majority of the fleet had completed a long sweep out towards St Alban Head...

While Cetaway gave up the ghost, two other boats in her class, Dekker 29, of the Holland red team, skippered by Jan Scholten, and the Belgium red boat, General Tapoex, skippered by Philippe Pilate, stuck to their task, eventually completing the course early yesterday, almost 48 hours after the start.

Tracy Edwards has announced that she has commissioned Nigel Irens to design a big catamaran for an all-female entry in The Race, the unlimited non-stop round-the-world race in 2000.

The project follows the high-profile attempt by Edwards and an all-female crew to break the record for the fastest circumnavigation of the globe in the catamaran Royal & SunAlliance, which ended when their boat was dismantled in the Southern Ocean earlier this year.

Sheikh driven on by sense of history

Simon Barnes believes that money is not the main motivation behind Godolphin's success

Swain did it again, Godolphin did it again, Sheikh Mohammed did it again and Frankie Dettori did it again. It doesn't seem to have got boring for any of them.

This was the first time that a horse had won successive victories in the race since Dahlia achieved the double in 1973 and 1974. No one has done the hat-trick, but I bet Sheikh Mohammed fancies it.

Being a sheikh means you have to delegate and Sheikh Mohammed, as usual, delegated the post-match celebrations to Frankie, who did his saddle-leap and his smile and his horse-kiss.

Sheikh Mohammed himself looked mildly pleased, perhaps faintly bored, which I suppose is something that sheikhs have to do. I don't know that it fooled too many people...

He parried questions about the hat-trick with all sorts of wait-and-see stuff, as if he were a British trainer long-used to fobbing off press inquiries.

Swain is already six. He is not electrifying; he is wonderfully solid. You can rely on him to give everything, to give nothing away.

There is still a feeling in and around racing that the Arabs in general are interlopers and that Sheikh Mohammed is the chief intruder.

Besides, Sheikh Mohammed does not see himself as an interloper at all. He is indeed a man coming to claim his own.



Dettori, representing the popular appeal element of the Godolphin operation, kisses Swain after their big-race triumph at Ascot

as high as the top of the stands. Instead, he stood there politely answering questions, and cracked. There is still a feeling in and around racing that the Arabs in general are interlopers...

time and, with them, the urge to try one horse and one human against another. Sheikh Mohammed is more aware of the horse's deep time than most. The first recorded horse race in this country was in AD 210.

It means something very powerful, very deep. He is conscious of history; he is conscious of the possibilities of making history. The combination of his resources, his hunger, his innovative mind...

of the stallion. He has stayed in racing because the making of history comes before the making of money. History. That was why he insisted on running the swift and darling filly, Cape Verdi, in the Derby...

6 If Swain were a bowler, he would surely be Angus-Fraser, always utterly genuine?

ROWING: MEN'S TEAM RETAIN TITLE AT HOME INTERNATIONAL REGATTA

Scotland exceed expectations

SCOTTISH hopes were high before the Home international regatta at Strathclyde Park, Glasgow, but even Iain Somerville, their young new president, was delighted at capturing five first places out of eight boat classes in the men's event...

By MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT

ning eight, came home ahead of Mark Partridge and Roger Everington, the Wales national champions. The issue was clinched in the last race, when the Scotland quad, with Warnock, Holmes, Plank and Mark Dodds, the under-23 champion, substituting for a sick Peter Haining, won the final race.

pairs, but Katherine Grainger, the Scottish and British sculling champion, had already won the singles and doubles, the latter with Ali Watt, from Clydesdale, as a last-minute substitute.

crew from Commercial RC, Dublin, and with England in third, it was they who took the match, by one point. Scotland and England shared the junior competitions, Scotland winning with the girls and England the boys.

Results, page 39

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Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Lizanne Rose discovers that whitewater rafting is as tough and as tricky as staying on a bucking bronco



Lizanne Rose, kitted out in lifejacket and mandatory helmet, prepares to tackle the man-made whitewater course at Nottingham, right, where newcomers to the sport quickly learn that it is not for those who panic under water

Riding the rough water

You'll be thinking how you've experienced rough water in a row-boat on the Serpentine in Hyde Park. Then, suddenly, your 14ft inflatable will hit a huge swell, pitch, roll and submerge you in spraying foam. Only as your raft lifts high into the air and slaps back down on the river, giving you a faceful of water, will you get an idea that this sport is actually as tricky as staying on a bucking bronco.

In our instructor's last two years of taking beginners out in a whitewater raft, she has had a total of three capsize — two of which were down to us! Although the idea of whitewater rafting is that you ride the rapids in your sophisticated rubber dinghy, our amateur crew spent more time in the water than in the boat. Even if you stay on board you will still get very wet.

I had assumed that the closest you could get to whitewater in Britain would be a log flume ride at Thorpe Park and that to experience it for real you would have to travel to Nepal or Colorado. However, to my surprise, whitewater does exist in Britain too, and we boast a successful national team. Whitewater gets its name from the surface appearance of the water created by fast flowing rapids and foam. Rafting emerged in America in the 1970s, since when the technology and accessibility of the sport have grown enormously. Because Britain has few rivers wide enough to float

a 14ft raft, it has taken the British a little longer to discover the sport. Scotland and Wales both have natural whitewater sites, ranging from a mild grade 1 run to a near impossible grade 5. I tried my hand at rafting at the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham, which has a man-made course graded as a 2-run fed with water from the River Trent. The 800-metre slalom course is enclosed and a good starting place for beginners. Safety

ropes can be thrown easily from the banks, and there is no chance of you disappearing miles downstream. Nevertheless, the huge slabs of concrete jutting menacingly from the water as you are buffeted by four-foot waves and pushed under by the current is not for the faint-hearted. Even though you are wearing a lifejacket and the mandatory helmet, confidence in the water is really necessary. If you are not happy about getting splashed or panic if your head goes under, this is probably not a good sport to try.

It helps to have some experience of either sailing, canoeing or rowing, but you will not be at a disadvantage if you do not, because rafting is a team sport. We were given an hour's instruction before tackling the rapids. This included a practice session on calm water. Our instructor showed us how to hold the paddle so that it entered the water vertically to provide maximum leverage and power.

If you are seated on the right of the raft, your left hand will grasp the crossed top of the handle. Your right hand is positioned low down near the blade. You sit precariously on the edge of the raft with your feet wedged as tightly as possible under the seat in front. Because you are not tied to the raft, there is no chance of you being trapped underneath the boat should it capsize.

Balancing the raft as a team is essential, since waves and undercurrents attacking the raft from both sides will push it in all directions. Our instructor steered the boat from the back, using her paddle as a rudder, navigating and shouting commands while we tried to keep the boat stable. If someone falls overboard, it is up to the crew to pull them

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Martin Hoffman is one of the finest match-pointed pairs players in the game. His excellent *Defence in Depth*, first published in 1985, has just been reissued. Here is an example from the book:

Dealer South Love all Pairs

♠K2
♥A10
♦KQ8878
♣KQ2

♠Q8543
♥753
♦43
♣875

♠A1076
♥42
♦AJS
♣AJ64

4+8
♥KQJ886
♦102
♣1093

2H (weak) Pass
Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: five of hearts

Declarer wins West's trump lead in hand and plays the two of diamonds to West's four and dummy's king. As East knows that his partner would have played the three of diamonds from a holding of 10-4-3, he ducks this trick, and declarer continues with dummy's queen of diamonds. East wins his ace as both South and West follow suit. How should East continue?

If declarer manages to run the diamonds there will surely be no way to beat the game. Passive defence is not good enough. Say East returns a trump. Declarer will win in dummy, ruff a diamond high, draw the remaining trump and play a club. Sooner or later he will reach dummy with a club honour and run the diamonds.

Thus East must switch to clubs at this trick, to attack

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British championship

With the Smith & Williamson British championship starting today in Torquay, I give a game by one of the co-winners last year, who was ultimately eliminated after a play-off which left Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler sharing the title.

Last chance

With the closing date almost upon us, today is your final reminder to enter the 1998 British chess-solving championship. The following position is the opening puzzle for this event. The problem is White to play and mate in two moves against any Black defence. Those wishing to enter should send a cheque or postal order for £3 to cover administrative expenses with their entry which should consist of White's first move only to British Chess Problem Society, 9 Roydfield Drive, Waterthorpe, Sheffield S20 6ND. Those entering should enclose an a.e.

Please mention that you are entering via *The Times* when you send in your answer. The championship is only open to UK residents. The closing date is this Friday July 31. Good luck with your solving and I look forward to an excellent entry from *Times* readers.

Diagram

White to play. This position is from the game Hebden — Crouch, Four Nations League, 1998.

The white rook is loose on c2, while Black is also threatening to capture on e3, gaining an extra pawn. How did White solve his problems?

Solution on page 44

SPORT FOR

could be under water for at least five seconds — the raft will quite possibly be out of reach. Even if you manage to swim to the side of the river with a Herculean effort, unless there is someone on the bank to pull you out, there are no grips to hang on to. You simply have to brave it out, keeping calm and keeping your feet up and paddle in front of you to ward off the rocks that are unfortunately all the way along the course.

When our crew got into our stride we weren't bad at all, but when we lost it, it was a disaster. Our only consolation was that the water was warm and the showers afterwards were hot!

TO TRY whitewater rafting at the National Watersports Centre (Current Trends), Nottingham or for details of other centres in Wales, Scotland and the North East, contact Skyline Promotions on 0171-359 6080.

COST: A two-hour whitewater rafting session costs between £100 and £200 per group of eight people depending on location. If you wish to try rafting and raise money for a charity at the same time, the eight team members need to collect £600 between them. (Charity events can be organised through Skyline Promotions.)

INSURANCE: You will have to sign an indemnity form absolving the centre of responsibility. Individual sport insurance is not really required as the chance of injury is slight.

FITNESS: A reasonable level of fitness is necessary, especially for lugging the raft back to the start. You need to be confident in and around water but it is not compulsory that you can swim.

AGE: You must be more than 14 to take part. There is no maximum age limit.

HEIGHT: There is no minimum or maximum height requirement.

CLOTHING: You should bring a swimming costume or shorts, T-shirt, trainers, plus a complete change of clothing. Wet suits can be hired for £5 each.

RAFTING SEASON: Rafting is an all-year-round sport, but autumn and spring are the best as the centre is at its quietest and winter can be a bit icy!

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have reserved their golf days for the 1998 Calendar. The top four individual scores on the day will earn the company team a place to qualify for a regional final.

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سكوا من الاما

Katherine Bergen finds a growing band of vets using alternative therapies to ease the suffering of animals, from family cats, dogs and birds, to cows and snakes

We know that pets contribute to our own general good health. Even stroking an animal brings down blood pressure and stress levels. But there are now a variety of options for ensuring a pet's health — including many of the alternative therapies available to human beings.

Homoeopathy, herbal medicine, acupuncture, Bach Flower Remedies, osteopathy and even counselling are just some of the therapies on offer from a growing band of veterinary surgeons dedicated to the alternative approach. Anthony Pusey (01444 831576) is an osteopath with a practice in West Sussex who has been treating animals for 15 years (no one can treat an animal unless they are the owner, a vet or someone acting under the supervision of or in consultation with a vet).

"Treatment using crystals and an electric current has helped prolong the life of a dog with malignant cancer"

He treats mainly horses and dogs and says that animal osteopathy differs little from that performed on humans. "Dogs are referred to me by their vets and mainly we see middle-aged, overweight dogs who have stiffness or neck and back pain," says Mr Pusey. Studies show that on aver-

age, dogs need 27 treatments to improve. A half-hour session costs £35 — much the same as people are charged. For horses, Mr Pusey uses a thermograph to determine the type of injury and the horse is sedated while he treats it. The success rate, he says, is very good.

"Seventy-five per cent of the horses we treat are better after three or four treatments and this number, in the studies so far, have remained so a year

later. In 24 per cent of cases performance is actually at a higher level than before," Mr Pusey adds. Onno Wieringa (0171 937 8215), a qualified vet and practitioner of acupuncture on humans, uses the treatment as a complement to traditional veterinary medicine. He recommends it for treating epilepsy, incontinence, low energy, arthritis and other painful conditions.

One of his most successful cases was a King Charles spaniel, called Darcy, who has epilepsy. "He was not doing well with conventional treatment which made him very sluggish. He is much more alert now after acupuncture and is slowly improving. Dogs with partial paralysis and neurological problems also do well on this treatment."

A course of four treatments, each lasting 30 minutes, costs £35 for the first and £30 for each subsequent session. At the Alternative Veterinary Medicine Centre in Stanford-in-the-Vale, Oxfordshire (01367 710324), Christopher Day practises a variety of therapies including aromatherapy, herbalism, homoeopathy, tissue salts and laser treatment.

"Pets get a 30-minute consultation when they first come in," says an assistant. "We treat cats, dogs, horses and cattle mainly but also birds, snakes and tortoises."



Nine lives intact: Burmilla Astahazy Zarzuelas is just one pet that can benefit from less well-known treatments

Alternative therapies are the cat's whiskers

The use of lasers, a fast-developing multi-purpose treatment for humans, is used in conjunction with acupuncture. Infra-red lasers are used to hasten the healing of wounds. Richard Allport, at the Natural Medicine Veterinary Centre in Potters Bar, Hert-

fordshire (01707 662058), trained as a conventional vet but has practised all types of alternative therapies for the past 12 years. He is the only vet in Britain to be a qualified practitioner of electro-crystal

therapy for animals, which costs £25 plus VAT for a 10 to 20-minute session. Any animal can be treated with the system which uses quartz crystals sealed inside a plastic tube containing a sa-

line solution. An electric current is passed through the tube and placed on the injured part of the animal.

"I use this treatment in conjunction with other therapies such as acupuncture. It is

helpful, though not a cure, in chronic cases such as cancer," says Mr Allport.

He is particularly pleased with the progress of Decca, a German Shepherd with prostate cancer. "This is a very

malignant cancer and he was not given long to live. But months later he is doing very well on a combination of homoeopathy, herbal remedies and vitamins.

Essential oils are also being used to treat animals. Aromatherapy, using oils, shampoos, poultices and lotions, works by promoting healing within the body.

Kristin Kosowan (01672 511959), has treated horses, dogs, cats and even a bantam. She started seven years ago when she was asked to cure a Jack Russell of travel sickness.

"There are levels of safety and precautions must be taken but once the appropriate preparation has been formulated, it is simple to use," she explains. The bulk of Ms Kosowan's clients come to her with "common ailments" such as fleas and ear mites, for which non-prescription treatment is available over the counter.

More serious conditions are referred to her by vets. "I always ask if owners have talked to their vet and what they have said," she says. "I am not allowed to diagnose and prefer to work alongside vets."

She makes no charge for her consultations but sells a range of lotions, creams and shampoos for between £4.50 and £18. Kismet, a cat whose fur had lost its gloss, benefited from treatment with a peppermint tea tree shampoo.

Maybe we humans should give it a try.

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table listing various stock categories including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, ELECTRICITY, BUILDING MATERIALS, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING, VEHICLES, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, LEISURE & HOTELS, OIL & GAS, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, WATER, and ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET. Each entry includes company name, price, and weekly change.

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Firms hit by skills shortage

Additional text on the right side of the page, possibly related to the skills shortage article.

NO

Market cap: £3.8 billion
Turnover: £3.81 billion
Pre-tax profit: £226.3 million
Employees: 43,000

Overview: Ladbroke owns Hilton International, which has more than 170 hotels in 50 countries outside the US. It also owns Ladbrokes, the UK's biggest bookmaker, and Vernons Pools, as well as various gaming and betting interests in the US, Egypt and South America.

Group chief executive is Peter George, 54, who joined Ladbroke Racing in 1963, joining the main board in 1980. Mr George became vice-chairman and joint managing director in 1990, and chief executive in January 1994. As a result of the hotel alliance signed with Hilton Hotels Corporation of the US last year he also sits on the HHC board. He is a council member of Business in the Community and a trustee of Industry in Education.

The non-executive chairman since 1994 has been John Jackson, 69, a board member since 1980. He is chairman of several other public companies, including Celtech, Xenova and Wyndham Press. The other non-executive directors are: David Davies, chairman and chief executive of Johnson Matthey; Lady Patricia, a member of the advisory board of Bain & Co; Russell Walls, finance director of BAA; Derek Williams, former managing director of Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages; and Steve Bollenbach, president and chief executive officer of HHC.

Brian Wallace, 44, became finance director in 1995 after five years as finance director of Geest. A chartered accountant, he has had spells with Price Waterhouse, APV and Schlumberger.

The chief executive of Hilton International is David Jarvis, 51, who joined the group in 1995 after 23 years with Allied Domecq, the past three as a main board director. Heading the betting and gaming division is Mike Smith, a former director of Bownater. Mr Smith, 51, has held senior positions with Grand Metropolitan, Ford and British Leyland.

FOR a company so firmly ensconced among the UK's top 100 companies, Ladbroke Group has an oddly ragged look about it. Its on-off marriage with Hilton Hotels Corporation of the US and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission threat to its takeover of Coral have combined to give it the appearance of a company with plenty of loose ends to tie up.

Such an appraisal is probably unfair on Peter George, the chief executive, who has given back to Ladbroke the focus it had begun to lose during the last years of Cyril Stein's 37-year stewardship. Under George, a loyal Stein lieutenant, it has got back to operating businesses where, as one Ladbroke watcher put it, there is no inventory on the shelf.

Having previously been involved with Ladbroke's disastrous Laskys electrical retailing business, which was sold to Granada, one of the first things George did after replacing Stein was to seek a way out of Texas Homecare and the group's commercial property portfolio. To his credit, he did so more quickly and efficiently than most had expected.

The disposals enabled him to bolster a balance sheet that weighed down by a £1.6 billion debt mountain, was looking distinctly shaky when he took the reins. His early strategy involved focusing on growth that involved limited capital investment. To that end, the Hilton International business acquired in 1987 was ideal, because it was capable of being expanded largely through management contracts with, at most, a small equity involvement. The other advantage of concentrating on betting and hotels during this transitional period was that both are excellent cash-flow generators.

George was also quick to rectify one of the more ignominious episodes in the company's history, when it was kicked out of the casino business by the Gaming Board after illegal enticement of high-rolling gamblers away from rival clubs. In September 1994, after a gap of 15 years, George oversaw a return to casinos, paying £50 million for three London clubs — Maxim's, Charlie Chesters and the Golden Horseshoe.

The other big challenge that George has faced is one over which he had no control. The launch of the National Lottery in November 1994 threw the entire betting industry into disarray and caused pandemonium in Ladbroke's Vernons



Ladbroke, where Peter George, top left, is chief executive, and John Jackson, chairman, owns Hilton International, including the London Hilton, top right, outside the US and is the UK's largest bookmaker. In the United States, its gaming and betting interests include a casino in Colorado

pools business. Having seen more than three quarters of Vernons' turnover wiped out, many observers expected George to cut his losses and sell. But having cut swathes through its cost base, the new management team installed by George is now running a considerably smaller operation at a small profit.

The unveiling last week of Easy Play, its online football-based game played on National Lottery terminals, takes Vernons into an area of expertise that could eventually be translated onto an international stage.

On the betting side the revival has been more dramatic. With other operators, Ladbroke responded to the Lottery by launching a series of numbers games, such as 49s, while developing betting on other sports such as football and golf — both with higher margins than betting on horses.

That George should not be satisfied to sit back and consolidate the group's position largely through organic growth, indeed, a prime move in this change was Brian Wallace, the group's highly regarded finance director, who has also played a big role in reassuring those investors who remain sceptical of George's abilities.

So when it became apparent at the end of last year that Bass wanted to sell Coral, the third-biggest bookmaker behind Ladbrokes and William Hill, George and Wallace did not hesitate to move quickly to tie up a deal.

Encouraged by informal guidance from the Office of Fair Trading, Ladbroke

signed an unconditional £363 million deal with Bass and arranged to sell on 133 shops to the Tote to satisfy the competition issues raised by the OFT.

That was where George's luck ran out. The deal was referred to the MMC, which is widely expected to recommend that, at the very least, Ladbroke be forced to offload about 500 shops when it submits its report to the Government this month. Because it is an unconditional deal, it is Ladbroke — not Bass — that will have to bear any losses.

Although a forced sell-off would be a blow to George, his subsequent actions show that he is willing to go for bigger prizes, this time in hotels. Not long after the Coral deal, it emerged that Ladbroke had put in a serious offer for Inter-Continental Hotels, making it to the shortlist stage.

Speculation of a more formal deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation, with which it al-

ready pools sales, marketing and reservations, has been rife for the past few months. This rose to a crescendo a few weeks ago when HHC unveiled plans to demerge its hotel and casino interests at the end of this year, prompting widespread suggestions that the ground was being laid for Ladbroke to acquire the hotels side of HHC.

What is certain is that Ladbroke has conducted a certain amount of due diligence on the US Hilton business, reputedly valuing the portfolio at \$8 billion (£5 billion).

For the time being, the issue appears to have been returned to the back-burner, although if Steve Bollenbach, the head of HHC, decides he definitely wants to sell, then Ladbroke will not be slow in returning to the bargaining table.

Analysts are also quick to point out that the strategic alliance between the two Hiltons already delivers huge benefits,

and that there is scope for further dividends even if the marriage is never formalised.

With so many issues unresolved, and "more than enough for me to do until I retire", as George put it recently, a move into new business areas is not top of his agenda. However, he is known to keep a lookout for any opportunities in related businesses and is understood to have had a cursory look at Thomson Travel Corporation before its flotation. One analyst said: "A move into the corporate travel business would make a logical move for Ladbroke if either of its two main businesses began to run out of steam."

All this is a far cry from the company George found in 1963 when he joined the setting department of Ladbrokes, which was then a credit betting operation in the West End of London. Another thing that has changed is his salary. George, whose father and grandfather were both bookies, was paid a basic salary of £450,000 last year, which rose to £745,000 including his bonus. Share options and other long-term incentives are valued at an estimated £1.5 million. However, Crisp Consulting reckons his length of experience and the company's profile mean he ought to be earning closer to £2.3 million.

At the other end of the scale, our experts were deeply unimpressed with the group's ethical approach. According to Integrity Works, it has the usual clutch of environmental policies, but it is not clear precisely what it stands for in terms of business principles. The consultancy concludes: "Annual report rhetoric about 'integrity' and 'high standards of business ethics' is nowadays insufficient to meet established best-practice standards."

DOMINIC WALSH

Ethical expression! 1/10
Fat-cat quotient! 10/10
Financial record 7/10
Share performance 8/10
Attitude to staff 7/10
Strength of brand 9/10
Innovation 10/10
Annual report 7/10
City star rating 8/10
Future prospects 7/10
Total 74/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works, the fastest growing, in which best business practices scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

Firms hit by skills shortage

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

SMALL British firms are suffering from a management skills deficit but are still falling behind larger companies in what they are prepared to pay executives, according to the Institute of Management. Its 1998 Smaller Business Review finds that executives of small companies — firms with annual turnover of less than £60 million — have seen their pay rise by 5.2 per cent this year.

This is substantially below the national average for executives of 7.2 per cent but still well up on the population as a whole, whose average earnings are up 4.2 per cent on a year ago.

Mary Chapman, the Institute of Management director-general, said: "This survey raises concerns about the performance of the small business sector. Small businesses are already suffering a management skills deficit and unless they can keep pace in the pay stakes, they will continue to lag competitively."

Among companies recruiting, 28 per cent said they were experiencing difficulties finding managers. Of these, 73 per cent cited lack of relevant skills as the main problem.

The institute said that boardroom bonuses are now 17.8 per cent of average salary, against 18.5 per cent last year.

THG legal threat over packages for Sydney Olympics

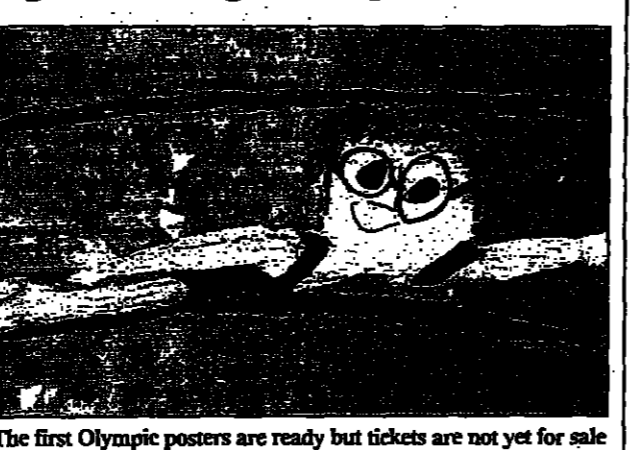
BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

A CORPORATE hospitality company based in the UK could face legal action from organisers of the Sydney Olympic Games for selling packages including seats for the 2000 Olympic finals when the tickets are not yet on sale.

The packages, offered by THG Worldwide at more than A\$17,500 (£6,730), came to the attention of the Sydney Olympic Games Organising Committee (Sogoc) when advertisements appeared with itineraries including luxury hospitality functions followed by swimming, athletics and soccer finals. According to Sogoc, the advertisements also imply a seat to the Olympic finals is included.

Such packages, they say, could lead to scenarios such as those witnessed at this year's World Cup, where hundreds of companies that had paid up to £2,750 per person to entertain clients at the event were told minutes before matches that no tickets were available.

Several British companies, such as International Championship Management and The Mall Entertainments, went into liquidation after they failed to get tickets and were



The first Olympic posters are ready but tickets are not yet for sale

forced to spend up to £800 per ticket on the black market.

According to Sogoc, no company can guarantee Olympic tickets or their cost because tickets are not on sale nor prices announced.

John Moore, Sogoc's marketing group general manager, said: "I think they probably believe that they can get tickets out there on the black market. But they won't get them from us. Tickets are not available yet and won't be until next year."

Organisers would take legal action to protect sponsors and individuals, Mr Moore said. "Our lawyers are looking at it,

BoS backs City Inn concept

BY DOMINIC WALSH

TWO of Edinburgh's leading business figures have secured backing from the Bank of Scotland to launch a new budget hotel concept, City Inn.

Sandy Orr, a director of Scottish Radio Holdings, and Donald MacDonald, chairman of Edinburgh Small Companies Trust, have joined forces to develop the brand in six or seven of the UK's biggest cities.

The men, both non-executive directors of Macdonald Hotels, will develop the City Inn brand through a new company called First Stop Hotels. They have previously been involved in funding and developing six Novotel in the UK, Edinburgh's Travel Inn and Sheraton hotels through their corporate finance company, Macdonald Orr.

The first two City Inns will open next year in Bristol and Glasgow, each with 167 rooms and costing less than £6.5 million apiece. Within three years they hope to establish the chain in Manchester, Edinburgh, Birmingham, London and possibly Aberdeen.

Mr Orr described City Inn as a "luxury budget" concept with facilities limited to a restaurant and an exercise room at just £49 for a four-star standard air-conditioned room, with a cheaper rate at weekends.

Xaar sues US company over inkjet patents

BY TIMON DAY

XAAR, the inkjet printing technology company based in Cambridge, has issued writs in the UK and the US against Calcomp, a Californian printing machinery company quoted on Nasdaq, which is supported by its major shareholder, Lockheed Martin, the aerospace group.

Xaar alleges Calcomp's new Crystal Jet poster printer infringes its key patents. Xaar has licensed nine companies to use its revolutionary technology, including Brother of Germany and Pitney-Bowes in the US. Zebra, the UK drugs and pigments company, is licensed to make the special inks needed to use Xaar technology.

Xaar floated late last year, is a leading-edge British high-tech firm. Its printhead technology has the potential to revolutionise printing processes worldwide. Machines using its ultra-fast printing heads could replace laser printers in offices, litho-offset presses at printing works and screen printers in textile companies.

It will take a year before the case is heard in Britain, and 18 months in America. Jonathan Lowe, Xaar finance director, said: "We've had a lot of support from our customers. As a company dependent on protecting our intellectual prop-

Rio phones sale sparks fierce fight

BY MARTIN BARROW

THE \$14 billion (£8.44 billion) auction of Telebras, Brazil's huge state-owned telecoms network, has attracted fierce competition from some of the world's biggest telephone companies.

MCI, Sprint and BellSouth Corp. of America, Japan's NTT, Spain's Telefonica, and Telecom Italia, are all vying for a stake in the network, which is to be sold at a marathon day-long tender in the Rio de Janeiro bourse on Wednesday.

British companies have given the auction a wide berth. BT and Cable & Wireless, which have big international ambitions, have decided not to participate. Another notable absentee is America's AT&T Corp.

The Telebras sale, Latin America's biggest privatisation, comes two months before national polls in which President Fernando Henrique Cardoso hopes to be re-elected for a second four-year term.

Companies are bidding for stakes in the 12 operating companies that make up Telebras. The Brazilian Government's asking price is \$11.7 billion but intense competition is likely to drive prices up to a total of \$14 billion. The operating companies are three fixed-line firms, eight wireless firms and one long-distance firm.

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